

Mysterious Heartland is proud to bring you our list of the "Top 10 Creepiest Roads in Illinois." Any of these roads makes an excellent spooky night-time trip, but remember, always be conscious of other motorists – especially if they might be ghosts!

10. Kennedy Hill Road

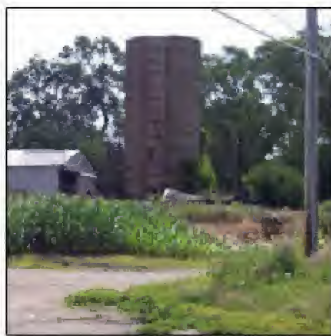


Kennedy Hill Road

Between mid-December and early January 1980/81, dozens of people reported seeing a young woman in various stages of dress walking down Kennedy Hill Road outside of Byron. By January 20, 1981, the sightings had reached a fevered pitch. Motorists parked their cars in the frigid temperatures along the narrow rural road to catch a glimpse of what became known as "The Phantom Lady of Kennedy Hill Road." Newspaper reports reached as far away as Chicago, and the Rockford Register Star ran five consecutive articles on the sightings.

Explanations for the phantom varied from the ghost of a woman who had been buried in a nearby cemetery, to a mentally disabled girl who ran away from home, to even a transvestite who wore his girlfriend's clothes after she died in an accident. The phantom disappeared after the snow thawed that spring and was never seen again.

9. Shoe Factory Road



Shoe Factory Road

An old, derelict Spanish Colonial revival style house and an abandoned farm formerly stood along Shoe Factory Road in Hoffman Estates. Both were rumored to be haunted. The unique, stone house was at one time the Charles A. Lindbergh School, named after the famed aviator. According to local historian John Russell Ghrist, it was built in 1929. The school closed in 1948 and spent the next 30 years as a residence, until it became abandoned sometime during the late 1980s.

Local teens believed that the stone house became abandoned after a child living in the home killed his parents. They claim the ghost of this child, who plays with a knife, could be seen sitting on the steps. The haunted farm, and its nefarious barn, had several stories associated with it. One story involved the farmer going insane and murdering his family, then burying them in the middle of a circle of trees. The other had the family being murdered and hung in the barn by a mental patient. Both of these buildings were torn down in 2007.

8. Cherry Road

Similar to Spring Valley's "Help Me" Road, Cherry Road outside of Oswego is said to have been the scene of a tragic accident. While predominantly straight, there is a sharp, 90 degree

during the day, very uneventful, but having driven along Cuba road alone at night...it's a very 'thick' feeling, like driving through time standing still—the energy is like pea soup—as is Archer Avenue—similar feeling. I've hear of orbs in the cemetery, people feeling a presence in their car, and someone who lived nearby stating that they would come home to find that items and furniture in their home would be rearranged.

One road story I heard that has always stuck with me is a story that took place somewhere near the WI / IL border somewhere along a frontage road...I seemed to think it was near 41, near where the Renaissance Fair is held?, but am wondering if anyone can help.

As the story goes a woman, looking very alive and real, stumbles onto the road, oncoming cars will slam on their brakes, only to drive through her. Apparently there is an older cemetery nearby. I have heard of more than one encounter with this person.

Does anyone know anything about this story or area?

Trackbacks

1. TRAVEL THESE 10 CREEPY ILLINOIS ROADS... IF YOU DARE | Disclosure News Online says:

07/19/2014 at 6:00 pm

[...] road trip. Mysterious Heartland, a site listing some of the scariest places in the Midwest ranked The 10 Creepiest Roads in Illinois and The 10 Most Haunted Roads in the Midwest. Between these two lists we found 10 creepy Illinois [...]

2. Top 10 Most Haunted Places in Northern Illinois – Mysterious Heartland says: 10/13/2014 at 6:55 am

[...] Cuba Road sits nestled between the towns of Lake Zurich and Barrington, both upper and upper-middle class retreats. It is the setting of a plethora of paranormal phenomenon, including a phantom car (or cars), a pair of spectral lovers, and a vanishing house. A side street called Rainbow Road formerly had the distinction of being home to an abandoned mansion that some believed was an old asylum. Along Cuba Road sits White Cemetery, which author Scott Markus has referred to as the Bachelor's Grove of the north-Chicago suburbs. This small, rectangular graveyard dates from the 1820s and its ghostlore concerns mysterious, hovering balls of light. [...]

/* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }

angle toward the end of the road. A young couple allegedly wrecked their car after prom while taking that curve too fast. The boy crawled from the wreckage and wrote "help" in his own blood on the pavement. His girlfriend's ghost can be seen at the bend. Over the years, local teens have painted "Help" on the road with red spray paint.

7. Dug Hill Road

The first story concerning Dug Hill is a classic haunting rooted in the past. In 1863, Union army deserters ambushed and killed a provost marshal named Welch along Dug Hill Road. There are two versions of the story, one involving three deserters, the other involving a dozen or so. In the second version, Welch's own friend betrayed him and led him into the ambush. Since then, his ghost has been seen along the road. Another legend concerns a man named Bill Smith, who reportedly witnessed a spectral wagon pass over his head.

A third story pertaining to the Dug Hill area concerns a creature known as "the boger." The boger, or the boger-man, was something cooked up by parents who want to scare their children. Two men have reportedly seen this boger along Dug Hill Road in the past. The creature appears as a nine-to-eleven foot tall man who wears black pants, a white shirt, and a long scarf. No one has yet come forward to explain where this creature found someone to tailor his gigantic clothes.

6. Seventh Avenue Dead End

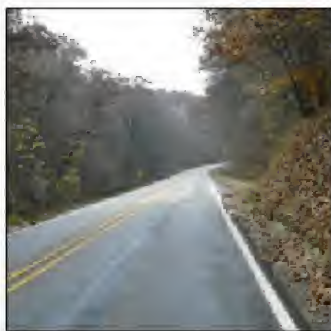


Seventh Avenue

Just east of downtown Sterling, 7th Avenue ends in front of a railroad track that runs parallel to the Rock River, which divides Sterling and Rock Falls. Several people have drowned or have been hit by a train in the area. Although 7th Avenue is nearly identical to the other nearby side streets, eyewitnesses have reported seeing or hearing the ghost of a woman there. She is said to be searching for her missing child along the riverbank just over the railroad tracks. While no one really knows who this young woman was in life, many locals have heard the story.

*Check out these places and more in Michael Kleen's
Haunting Illinois: A Tourist's Guide to the Weird and Wild Places of the Prairie State!*

5. "Help Me" Road



A local legend maintains that in the 1980s a couple was returning home along this road from a night of drinking at a nearby biker bar when their motorcycle crashed. Both riders were terribly injured, but the man managed to write "help me" on the road in his own blood before he died. Attempts to remove the words from the pavement failed. Even when the county repaved the road, the words mysteriously returned. Some have suggested that "help me" was written onto the road in tar by a mischievous construction worker. The road has recently been repaved and the words are no

4. Cole Hollow Road

Stories of bigfoot and other mythic creatures are not often associated with Illinois, however, in the 1970s the Illinois River Valley was abuzz with sightings of the Cole Hollow Road Monster, or Cohomo, for short. It was first sighted along Cole Hollow Road, just outside of Creve Coeur, south of Peoria. It was described as a three-toed beast, eight to ten feet tall, with a coat of thick white fur. There were so many sightings in the summer of 1972 that the Tazewell County Sheriff's Department organized a search party to hunt for the creature. Encounters with Cohomo tapered off after that, but one man believed he caught a glimpse of it in the headlights of his car one night in July 2000, further north up the Illinois River near Essex, Illinois.

3. Blood's Point Road



Blood's Point Road

A cornucopia of urban legends have attached themselves to this aptly-named rural avenue and its neighboring cemetery. Visitors have reported seeing phantom vehicles and a dog with glowing red eyes. According to legend, the railroad bridge was the scene of a deadly school bus accident, as well as more than one hanging. These hangings have also been attributed to a bridge along nearby Sweeny Road. The cemetery itself is said to be visited by a wide variety of phenomenon—from orbs, to a phantom dog, to a vanishing barn, to the disembodied laughter of children and electrical malfunctions. Blood's Point was named after Arthur

Blood, the first white settler of Flora Township. Some locals maintain that he brought a curse with him that remains to this day.

2. Lebanon Road

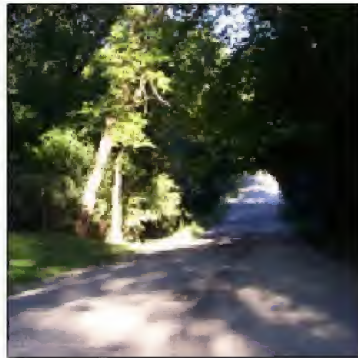
On or around Lebanon Road are seven railroad bridges, some no longer in use. All of them are heavily coated in graffiti—a testament to their popularity for nighttime excursions. Local visitors have crafted a hellish tale around these seven bridges, which they dubbed the “Seven Gates to Hell.” The legend is that if someone were to drive through all seven bridges and enter the last one exactly at midnight, he or she would be transported to Hell. In some versions, the person entering the final tunnel must be a skeptic. In other versions, no tunnel can be driven through



Creepy9

twice in order for the magic to work. Like Cuba Road in Barrington, an abandoned property near Lebanon Road has given rise to rumors of a “death house.”

1. Cuba Road



Creepy5

Cuba Road sits nestled between the towns of Lake Zurich and Barrington, both upper and upper-middle class retreats. It is the setting of a plethora of paranormal phenomenon, including a phantom car (or cars), a pair of spectral lovers, and a vanishing house. A side street called Rainbow Road formerly had the distinction of being home to an abandoned mansion

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Haunting Illinois by Michael Kleen

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Comments

1. Tish C says:
04/17/2013 at 7:13 pm

In elgin Il. I and my best friend Angie saw the tall white beast with thick white hair up close and it followed us home. It was seen in tall grass off fleet wood dr. I asked my friend not to run as I noticed it from a far . I thought it was a huge dog laying the grass but as we got closer and I mentioned to her not to run she immediately took off and I picked up the pace as it raised up and took on its tall legs standing taller then a horse having a naked tail with almost a human like face and it was massif and VERY scary and it was very quiet.it was the wee hours of the morning and I could see its for well from a far and she wore glasses and still couldn't see far with clarity but as we got on it and I asked her what's that ? And please don't run it followed ush with its head then stood up and when we got home I tried to take the garbage to the balcony from being afraid to go out fully to the garbage dumpster. And as I was putting out the bucket I saw it in the back in the woods and behind her building like it had somehow followed us. There is something out there/here in Illinois.

• Ashley says:
04/27/2013 at 2:05 pm

CREEPY!!!! when was this do you still see it????

• Veronica Lawson says:
07/31/2014 at 9:57 pm

sounds like smile dog.lol.

2. mhawth1 says:
05/23/2013 at 9:04 pm

Hi Tish, I believe that I can help answer your questions on this. Would love to chat with you about it. Just let me know here. Hope to hear from you....

3. fonz says:
08/19/2013 at 6:16 pm

i've been searching on google for a particular haunted road in illinois, with no luck. it was back in 2001 when i was 17. i met a girl at a party and she asked me to drive her home. i'm from the north side of chicago and i didn't know she lived in the south suburbs(from what i remember). it was pretty late, after midnight for sure probably closer to 2 or 3. It was a winding and hilly road, two car lanes that went opposite directions. it was a full moon that night but the tree line was so close to the road that it pretty much blocked it out. she was on her phone and i was going about 70mph when i came on a curve in the road that went left. upon taking the curve, there was a clearing and the moon was able to shine in. the clearing was about 30 yards. when i looked, i saw 3 ghosts. 2 males and 1 female standing next to a picnic table. they were wearing a white sheets. they were translucent and their eyes were black. one of the males was just a little boy, couldn't be older than 10. the other male and the female appeared to be in their teens. my hairs stood up and it was almost as time stopped. the scariest thing was that all 3 of their heads followed my car as i whipped around that corner. If you know anything about this

story please email me, i would like to know the real story. What the girl told me was that the teenagers was a couple and the boy was the girls little brother. they got a flat or something and a drifter raped and murdered all 3 one by one. This wasn't my first encounter with a ghost but definitely the scariest.

- GamerzDelightt says:
08/14/2014 at 7:33 pm

<http://www.angelfire.com/theforce/haunted/hauntedplacesofillinois.htm> Square Barn Road perhaps? sorry if this isn't any help

- prairiefox53 says:
08/29/2014 at 1:51 pm

German Church Road in Willow Springs? That is where the murdered Grimes sisters were found in 1957.

- the kid says:
10/05/2014 at 3:54 pm

there are a lot of roads like that especally in the area west of palos heights route 83 is like that as is many of the roads north of there until you hit the cal sag best bet would be to try and drive the area.

4. Tim says:
11/19/2013 at 9:50 pm

In regards to number four. Cole Hallow Road I'm gonna call bull shit. The writer should check his facts. Essex Illinois is about 35 miles from the Illinois River!

- Michael Kleen says:
11/20/2013 at 12:03 am

Tim, I'm not sure what you're objecting to. Essex is actually about 20 miles south of the Illinois River – but so what? How does that make any difference to the story?

- Valena says:
12/04/2013 at 7:09 pm

4, Cole Hollow Road is in East Peoria.

5. David says:
12/28/2013 at 5:17 pm

Lantern Road in Iroquois county should make this list! Very creepie stretch of old back road where a luminous orb can be seen floating above the road... Many generations of witnesses and faithful viewers.

6. Adam Varilek says:
02/07/2014 at 8:43 pm

i live in byron i think it is particularly weird the siting of the woman was only over one winter. both my parents recall this phenominon. as of blood point road i have been there numerous times but one time. shit did go down. details too long to write but my car did get pushed backwards on the bridge and our windows fogged up we got pushed far enough back to read F*** you in spray paint just ahead of our vehicle and a big black truck got on our ass going about 70 mph, blowing stop signs trying to lose them they didnt budge till we look back and they are completely gone. we pull into a farm house to turn around and my friends car died for 30 seconds, scariest 30 seconds of my life but after we got off the road things settled. more happend but thats all the detail ill provide as no one will probably see this as this is an old article

• josh says:
02/16/2014 at 11:43 pm

I live in byron and kennedy hill rd is not scary unless you trybto longboard down it. Theres only stories about the estate back in the woods. Actuall g met the ladyvthat owns it. Sweet old lady. Been out to blood point rd. Put powder on oue bumper and felt the car roll across the bridge. Got out amd there were handprints in the powder. The cemetery is just plane creepy.

7. Uriel R says:
02/08/2014 at 2:34 pm

Where in Elgin il? I too live in Elgin and had some weird encounters myself.

8. Jessica says:
04/22/2014 at 11:27 pm

Whats the location of latern road, do you know? I live near that area. Thanks!

9. GamerzDelightt says:
08/14/2014 at 7:02 pm

Last night, two friends and I visited the cemetery along Cuba Road (White Cemetery). We decided to take a few pictures and wander a bit outside. Nothing happened at all. Back in the car, we looked at our pictures and noticed a glowing orb in one of the pictures. Thought it was pretty cool, but was disappointed nothing else happened. This morning my friend messed with coloring and filters on his phone of the picture with the orb. There is a hazy womanlike figure standing next to one of the orbs. We are convinced that we have seen a ghost through this picture. Plan to go back! Also will make a video talking and showing what happened! -GamerzDelightt (on youtube)

• Paty says:
10/04/2014 at 5:01 pm

When are you planning to put it in YouTube?

10. Buzz Bro says:

09/22/2014 at 9:24 pm

BOOOOO

11. brittany says:

10/17/2014 at 1:47 pm

Been to bloods point road will never go back there really is some evil in that place! Parked across the street from the cemetary and all five our phones went dead at the same moment! I did see the disapeering truck! Did not see the hell hounds! There's a old church by the bridge I believe it is the gate to hell I coulsnt even get close to it! I do get visions and while driving threw I had visions of little children buried in the corn field one particularly of a little girl running threw in her night gown covered in blood screaming help! I will never return to this place! Seventh ave in sterling illinois my best friend lived right there on the street train tracks behind her house! You do feel spirit but nothing crazy!i

12. hugh says:

02/19/2015 at 7:14 pm

I live in Orland Park, Illinois, and I live about 10 minutes from Bachelors Grove by car. This year around Halloween a couple of friends of mine and I decided to visit the old place. We had to park a mile away due to the cops. The walk there was scary enough. We were dodging citizens, being very quiet as we do so. After a while we were about there and this man was on his front porch. This man was what I thought insane, living next to Bachelors Grove must have drove him insane. He had a fog machine and was dancing in what looked like a wizards robe. We got close enough to hear this man and it sounded like some sort of chant he was saying. We believed this man was not only a devil worshiper, but also cookoo from spirits, demons, etc. Maybe it was just because it was Halloween, he was just putting on a show. After we shook off the spooky man we went in finally. These 3 large men were ahead of us, but turn a hard turn. We just kept going and eventually these jag offs scared the living shit out of us, jumping from the trees. We almost stabbed the in the fucking face. After shaking off another frightening experience we kept moving. We saw the "house that disappears" as it was rumored. That wasn't all though, we saw sort of an entity for just a glimpse of a second. Needless to say we booked and got the fuck out of there.

13. james says:

05/16/2015 at 6:02 am

man I hate to be a stickler, but I can't believe this "author" didn't proofread his first sentence. As a result, it just makes the unnecessary repetition in the first paragraph even more annoying.

here goes the rest if it... sigh.

• Michael Kleen says:

05/16/2015 at 7:19 am

Go fuck yourself, you pretentious prick. Go troll the website of someone who cares about your opinion as an English grad student.

■ Tony H says:

07/16/2015 at 9:42 am

Mike, he wanted you to proofread the first sentence, yet he did not proofread his comment.... (here goes the rest if it)....pretty sure IF should be OF.....

smh #trolls

14. Laughing atu says:

05/16/2015 at 6:03 am

Lol bloods point is nothing, the only freaky thing there are three cows. I've been there many nights, even went walking from Sweeney to bloods point when much younger. Was fun and you hype your self up which scares ya but truly there is nothing. So if this is the scariest road in the country then there should be no list.

• Michael Kleen says:

05/16/2015 at 6:57 am

Did anyone say it is the scariest road in the country? Nope! So we are truly "laughing atu"

■ dennimoto says:

05/17/2015 at 10:28 pm

This article is linked to from another that does claim it is rumored to be the scariest in the country. Probably why the comment was made.

<http://q985online.com/8-creepy-illinois-roads-to-travel-if-you-dare-list/>

■ Michael Kleen says:

05/18/2015 at 6:16 am

Well, this is the original article and I'm not responsible for what someone else says

15. eileenvirniglmt says:

10/31/2015 at 12:53 pm

Soooo I used to be a bartender and around Halloween would ask patrons to tell me their 'true' ghost stories, and have heard some crazy stories, it was near Barrington, so I ran into more than one person with Cuba road stories; have been to White Cemetery

Many of you may not know that Illinois is loaded with forgotten loot and buried treasure, but millions of dollars in gold and silver are right under your feet – if you can find it.

Luckily, Mysterious Heartland is here to bring you the story of some of Illinois' most notorious lost treasures! Perhaps you have what it takes to solve these mysteries and strike it rich?

10. Mysterious Hurricane Creek

Cumberland County, IL

In 1920, two reddish-colored skeletons were unearthed in a gravel bank on a farm owned by a man named Jake Walters in rural Cumberland County. One was giant sized: twice as large as the other, adult skeleton. The lower jaw of the giant was well preserved, with ten teeth that were worn down, indicating that he or she died at an old age. The bones were buried four feet below the surface in a region of prehistoric trails and burial grounds at the extreme end of a ridge east of Hurricane Creek. The ridge was already well known for its tales of buried treasure. According to legend, a young Indian Chief, most likely of the Kickapoo, told the white settlers that an elder of the tribe had buried a treasure there, but he would not reveal its location because anyone who dug it up would be cursed and die. About the time the giant skeleton was found, a fortune teller in Charleston claimed to know where the treasure was buried, but "will not tell until the right person to claim it comes along."

9. James Gregory Stash

Marion County, IL



Treasure9

Between 1880 and 1925, a man named James Gregory operated the only dry goods store south of Hickory Hill Church. Over the years, he became wealthy supplying local farmers with all their equipment, feed, and other supplies, but like many rural residents in the late 19th Century, James did not trust banks. He apparently did not trust his own wife either, because she had no knowledge of where he hid his money. Neighbors, however, sometimes observed that he would duck out to a pasture behind his home whenever he needed to stock up on additional inventory. In 1925, he suffered a stroke and died. His wife searched for her inheritance in vain, and

there are believed to be several thousand dollars still hidden somewhere on his former property.

8. Colonel Clark's Lost Silver

Steeleville, IL



Treasure8

George Rogers Clark is a celebrated name in Illinois history. In 1778, as the Revolutionary War raged out east, Clark asked Patrick Henry (then Governor of Virginia) for permission to lead a secret expedition to capture British posts in the Illinois country, which included Kaskaskia, Cahokia, and Vincennes. Patrick Henry commissioned Clark as a lieutenant colonel in the Virginia militia and authorized him to raise troops. Before his 175 man army left, the Virginia governor gave him several thousand pounds silver sterling to pay for the expedition. As Clark's army was preparing to attack Fort Kaskaskia on July 4, they buried 1,200 pounds sterling

west of present day Steeleville, near the Mississippi River, in case things went badly. He was victorious in battle, but unfortunately, the Mississippi flooded and obscured the location of the coins. This money has never been recovered.

7. The Sweetin Home

Greene County, IL

Otherwise known as "the old stone house," the remnants of this manor were, at one time, part of a mansion built in 1848 by a stockman named Azariah Sweetin. During the Civil War, Azariah didn't want to take any chances with banks, so he stuffed all his gold coins into jars and buried them around his property. Unfortunately, an equestrian accident in 1871 rendered him without any memory of where he had buried his money. After his death, his ranch was purchased by Cyrus Hartwell, who also lived there until he died. Treasure seekers soon tore the mansion apart, but no one has ever found Azariah's gold. Storytellers say Azariah's ghost—alongside snakes—now guards his lost loot.

6. The Farrington Brothers' Gold

Farmington, IL

Outlaws became national folk heroes after the Civil War, when irregular guerrillas and veterans of the Confederate Cavalry used the skills they learned during the war to enrich themselves and their families at the expense of railroads and banks. Levi and Hilary Farrington were no exception. They fought with Quantrill's Raiders during the war, and joined an outlaw gang after. In 1870, they robbed a train in Tennessee and made off with \$20,000 in gold. During the escape, the two brothers were separated and Levi laid low at a farm near Farmington, Illinois, where he is rumored to have hidden the gold. He was captured by a deputy after a short time and lynched in Union City, Tennessee. The Farrington Brother's loot was never found.

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5. Burrows Cave

Richland County, IL



Treasure5

In the early 1980s a man named Russell Burrows claimed to stumble upon a hidden cave somewhere near Olney. Even more incredible were the artifacts he said were hidden there. He found human remains, metal weapons, and an ancient language carved into gold tablets. Stranger still, the language was Middle Eastern and European in origin, and not from any known American Indian culture. According to Burrows, "The artifacts include ax heads of marble and other stone material, an ax head of what appears to be bronze, a short sword of what appears to be bronze, and other artifacts which might be considered personal weapons." The find

excited archeologists who believed that ancient cultures had interacted across continents. Unfortunately, Burrows refused to reveal the location of the cave to mainstream scientists, and the artifacts that allegedly came from the site were all shown to be frauds. After decades of debate, the Burrows Cave is now widely believed to have been an elaborate hoax.

4. Lost Stash of Henri de Tonti

Utica, IL

Between 1685 and 1702, Henri de Tonti was the most powerful man in central Illinois. He was a character of legend, even though most people do not remember him today. He lost his right hand at the Battle of the Messina Revolt during the Third Anglo-Dutch War and replaced it with a hook. He accompanied René-Robert Cavelier, Sieur de La Salle in his exploration of the Illinois country, and La Salle left him to hold Fort Saint Louis when he returned to France. During his time in the Illinois River Valley, he is rumored to have accumulated over \$100,000 in gold, which he buried around Starved Rock. He told a priest about the gold just before he died, but it has never been found despite search attempts in the 1750s by the French and the Potawatomie.

3. "King of the Hold Up Men"

Richmond, IL



Treasure3

Harvey John Bailey (1887–1979) was one of the 1920's most successful bank robbers. He worked in a gang or alone, and his career spanned 13 years and several states. In 1931, his gang robbed the Lincoln National Bank in Lincoln, Nebraska and made off with roughly \$1 million in cash. After the robbery, he is said to have hidden the loot on a farm near Richmond, Illinois, where he had been staying. He robbed his last bank in Kingfisher, Oklahoma and was sentenced to life in prison on October 7, 1933. He served time until his release in 1964. He died seven years later, but without recovering his stash. To this day, no one knows what

happened to the \$1 million.

2. Payroll Payload

Arthur, IL



Treasure 1

Many years ago, in the early 1800s, there was an old army way station in southern Piatt County near Arthur. It was well known in the area that several companies of regular army soldiers were coming there to receive their monthly pay, which meant that a total of around \$286,000 in \$20 gold coins was at the station. A gang of bandits planned to rob the station before the soldiers arrived. The station master learned of their plans, however, and with the help of several guards, he buried the gold coins. When the bandits arrived, they killed the station master and his guards and burnt the station to the ground. However, they never found the \$286,000 in gold,

which is presumably still buried somewhere nearby.

1. Cave-in-Rock

Hardin County, IL



Treasure 2

Cave-in-Rock, located on the Ohio River, is one of the most notorious treasure-hunting destinations in Illinois. From the 1790s to the 1870s the area around Cave-in-Rock was plagued by river pirates, horse thieves, counterfeiters, and highwaymen. Over \$1 million worth of stolen loot, gold, cash, and counterfeit bills changed hands there between 1790 and 1830 alone. In 1800, the Mason gang was rumored to have hidden a large stash of gold at Cave-in-Rock, but Samuel Mason was beheaded after he was caught on the Spanish side of the Mississippi River with \$7,000 and 20 human scalps. Aside from Mason's horde, there are

supposed to be dozens of stashes of gold and silver all along the cliff face.



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1. james dennison says:
04/26/2012 at 10:51 pm

mr kleen i was raised around centralia ill do u have more info about the location of the james gregory farm location also hickory hill church

• William Cash Parks says:
05/01/2013 at 5:28 pm

Hello Mr. Dennison: My name is William and have be on a hunt for 2 years and other info would help and of course You would share credit for any finds of mystery in this history.

2. Danny says:
06/05/2012 at 9:19 pm

anyone know of any haunted site in or near peoria, will you please let me know?

• Dave says:
11/01/2013 at 4:03 am

Hi Danny, The Bartonville sanitarium which is very close to Peoria is said to be very haunted;

3. JOE says:
12/18/2013 at 3:09 pm

How can I get permission to metal detect around Starved rock or cave in rock?

• Don says:
08/20/2015 at 6:27 am

It is State Parks property around the cave. You don't need permission to use a metal detector there. If you venture onto private property, that's a different story.

4. Beth Oxford says:
12/21/2013 at 7:18 pm

How can I get a map for Coffee cemetery in Hardin county illinois

5. Jeff Macri says:
01/01/2014 at 7:50 pm

As kids we saw a rectangular shaped object that looked like a algae covered steel plaque or carved rock under the ice of our creek. It definately wasn't natural so we thought it was native American because we had found many arrowheads there. The next summer we made a dam using sod and big rocks and tried to dig it up. It was an iron box that was wedged in between large rocks in the creek bed. The box must of

went deep because we couldn't even budge it with our shovels, let alone dig it up. The water kept breaking our dam which ended up being a battle that a few 11 years olds couldn't win. We gave up and over the years we talked about digging it back up but my 2 friends that discovered it have passed on, so I'm ready to team up with a treasure hunter to find out what's inside a super heavy old iron box someone took time to bury in the middle of a creek.

• Aaron says:
01/09/2014 at 7:46 pm

Jeff I would be interested in helping you.

• Ryan says:
01/17/2014 at 10:36 am

Jeff I also would be interested in helping you, when were you planning on doing this, I would like to know more.

■ Jeff Macri says:
01/21/2014 at 8:08 pm

It won't be easy to find. It's been 30 years but I know the general area. Sediment or rocks may have covered it up so an underwater metal detector or ground penetrating sonar would be required. I want someone with the proper resources to locate it quickly so I can finally see what it was after all these years. We first thought it was an ancient petrified wood or a rock carving looking at it thru the ice thinking it was Indian related. When the ice melted we figured it was made of iron. We thought maybe it had something to do with the Indian Boundry line. When it seemed like it went down pretty deep we hoped it was a buried box of treasure. When it was impossible to dig up then it seemed like it could be something to do with public works or sewer system, so we gave up. But what kind of public works do they bury at the bottom of a creek bed between rocks in the middle of a small stream? I'd heard rumors from my friends that kids discovered others buried in the same creek. It's something that's hard to stop thinking about. You begin to doubt that it all really happened, but I do have a couple other friends who were there that will remember it, so it's not all just some childhood dream I conjured back up or something. We haven't talked about it for a long time so a third party should interview them to see exactly what they remember about it and what other kids we grew up with remember hearing about it back then. If anyone thinks they know what it is please offer up your opinion. It's boggled my brain for way too many years!

• mark says:
07/21/2015 at 1:44 pm

jeff where are you from and if you are ever interested in some help digging that

thing up me and my buddy will help we love treasure hunting and native american artifacts add me on face book mark redhawk nelson or give me a call 309-224-4204

■ Jeff says:

07/21/2015 at 4:53 pm

Lilly Cache Creek in northern Will County. When we saw it as kids we were all absolutely stunned! We knew it was something very old and important. Like it was marking a spot with significance. I wish somebody would have an idea what it could be.

• betty reid says:

10/07/2015 at 2:14 pm

My name is betty and yes I would love to help dig it up with you here's my email address gypsilady1956@yahoo.com. please contact me thanx

6. Dave Gerber says:

03/25/2014 at 6:33 am

Jeff, are you still looking for help in finding your childhood discovery?

• Kyle says:

03/30/2014 at 8:28 pm

Jeff I too would be willing to help you discover what lies in the creek.

7. Megan Funchess says:

12/15/2014 at 6:02 am

Aren't there any treasure such as sculpted buffalo skulls in Illinois?

8. Joe Mathy says:

03/11/2015 at 6:20 pm

Is there anywhere near me in Downers Grove Illinois to hunt with a newly purchased COSTLY metal detector? Frustrated.....

9. clint taylor says:

06/29/2015 at 10:12 pm

jeff i was wondering if you ever unearthed that metal box im 21 and me and my girlfreind love to go arrowhead and indain bead hunting i wouldd love to help you find that boxor what was in it? im very interested and got to know please you can call 16185333749 leave a measage i have equipment ?

10. J.Hamilton says:

10/10/2015 at 12:36 am

Get real people! Why would someone have to go on line to find someone to go with him? What no family, friends, neighbors etc he has meet throughout 30 yrs of his life? I smell a rat not a beaver.

- Darin says:

11/02/2015 at 12:18 pm

i want to go to, id like to find the loot in richmond il

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

09/29/2014 by Michael Kleen5 Comments

The American Heartland brings to mind rolling fields of corn and grain, apple pie, and ... ghosts? For the past several years, Mysterious Heartland has scoured hundreds of books, articles, and websites to find the most interesting haunted and legendary places in the Midwest. With infamous locations like Griggs Mansion, Bachelor's Grove, Bullock Hotel, and dozens of other nationally-known paranormal hotspots, it was hard to choose the top 10. Never-the-less, we have come up with this list of what we think are the best. Which one will prove to be the most haunted of them all?

10. Historic Hannah House

Indianapolis, Indiana



Haunted_Midwest_Houses_5

This red-brick Italianate mansion was built in 1858 by Alexander Hannah, who later went on to become a state legislator. According to legend, the house was a stop on the Underground Railroad that helped slaves escape north to Canada prior to the American Civil War. During that time, it is said, a group of slaves were sleeping in the basement when one knocked over an oil lantern and started a fire. One by one, the sleeping slaves were consumed by the flames and smoke. When Alexander Hannah discovered what happened, he buried their ashes in the basement so no one would ever find out. To this day, the ghosts of these slaves haunt the home. Moans, shadows, whispers, and cold spots have been experienced in the basement. The ghosts of Alexander Hannah and his wife have also been seen upstairs. Today, the Historic Hannah House is open for tours and events.

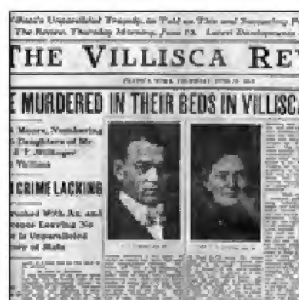
9. Griggs Mansion

St. Paul, Minnesota

Chauncey W. Griggs, a wholesale grocery tycoon, built this mansion in 1883, but did not live there long before heading west. Ghosts have been reported here for nearly a century and the mansion is often referred to as the most haunted house in St. Paul. It is inhabited by as many as seven different spirits. According to legend, in 1915 a young maid hanged herself near the fourth-floor landing after a failed love affair. Since her death, her presence has often been encountered in the form of a white mist or feelings of dread. The ghost of Charles Wade, the former gardener and caretaker of the house, has also been seen in the library of the mansion. Visitors have also seen an old, white-haired man wearing a black suit and top hat. Reportedly, in 1969 a group of journalists fled the mansion in terror after trying to spend the night. The Griggs Mansion has frequently changed ownership in recent years, and was still up for sale as of 2012.

8. Villisca Ax Murder House

Villisca, Iowa



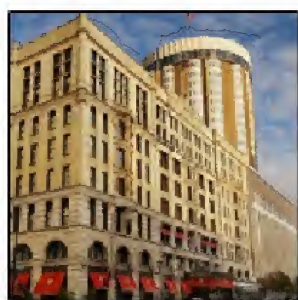
Creepiest_Midwest_Abandon

On the night of June 9, 1912, Josiah and Sarah Moore, their children Herman, Katherine, Boyd, and Paul, and their children's friends Lena and Ina Stillinger, were brutally murdered while they slept by an unknown assailant with an ax. The killer was never officially found, although a traveling preacher named George Kelly was tried and acquitted of the crime. Today, no one lives at the home, but the most recent owner opened it up for tours and paranormal investigations.

Dozens, if not hundreds, of eyewitnesses have reported strange encounters in the "murder house." Vanishing blood stains on the walls, feelings of an evil presence, strange green lights, cold chills, the feeling of being pushed or pulled by unseen hands, and even apparitions have all been experienced here. Ghostly voices, presumably of the Moore Children, have been recorded on several occasions.

7. The Pfister Hotel

Milwaukee, Wisconsin



Pfister_Hotel

The Pfister Hotel was built for an extravagant \$1 million in 1893 and contains the largest collection of Victorian artwork of any hotel in the world. It is a member of *Historic Hotels of America*, a program of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. The Pfister Hotel is also famously haunted by the ghost of its namesake, Charles Pfister. MLB players who have stayed there are open about their encounters with the otherworldly. Michael Young of the Phillies told ESPN Magazine, "Oh, f— that place. Listen, I'm not someone who spreads ghost stories, so if I'm telling you this, it happened. A couple of years ago, I

was lying in bed after a night game, and I was out. My room was locked, but I heard these footsteps inside my room, stomping around... so I yelled out, 'Hey! Make yourself at home. Hang out, have a seat, but do not wake me up, okay?' After that, I didn't hear a thing for the rest of the night." Despite all the hair-raising stories, this world-class hotel continues to attract guests and charges upwards of \$250 a night.

6. Central Michigan University

Mount Pleasant, Michigan

Established in 1892, the campus of Central Michigan University is literally crawling with ghosts. Otherworldly activity has been reported at nearly every building on campus. Some of the more notable encounters have occurred at Warriner Hall, Powers Hall, and the former site of Bernard Hall. Built in 1928, the hauntings at Warriner Hall stem from a tragic accident that occurred less than a decade after it opened. A young cafeteria worker named Theresa Schumacher died of a head injury near the elevator, and since then students have heard her

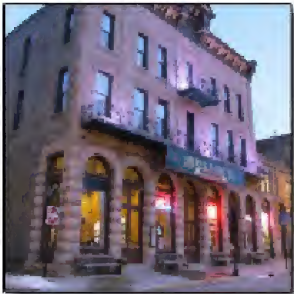


Central_Michigan_University

footsteps echoing around the central staircase. She has been known to manifest in a blue light and cause the elevator doors to open and close on their own. Phantom piano music is said to echo through Powers Hall. The music is attributed to a ghost named Emily, who died in the 1930s. She is allegedly buried under a piano-shaped hedge in the building's foyer. Torn down in 1996, Barnard Hall was the setting for CMU's most well-known ghost story. The cause of her death is uncertain, but the ghost of a freshman named Carolyn was widely believed to wander the hall in her nightgown. After the building was torn down, she has been spotted along Park Library Pond and in the graduate dorm that was built over the ruins of Barnard. Strange things have been experienced at Carlin Alumni House, Mae K. Woldt Hall, and Charles C. Barnes Hall as well.

5. Bullock Hotel

Deadwood, South Dakota



Bullock_Hotel

The historic Bullock Hotel, located at 633 Main Street in Deadwood, South Dakota, is one of the most famous haunted hotels in the United States. In 1992, it was featured on the TV program *Unsolved Mysteries*. It is reportedly haunted by none other than the ghost of its namesake, Seth Bullock, the first sheriff of Deadwood, as well as a host of other spirits. Whether it is the scent of his cigar, the sound of his boots in the hallway, or seeing his image in the mirror, many hotel patrons have reported feeling his presence. The Bullock Hotel was originally built between 1894 and 1896 and contained 60 luxury

rooms. Seth's Cellar Restaurant, located in the basement of the Bullock Hotel, is supposed to be one of the most haunted areas of the hotel. According to authors Chad Lewis and Terry Fisk, restaurant staff have heard the piano playing an old ragtime tune without the aid of human hands. Glasses, dishes, and other items fall or are tossed through the air without any explanation.

4. Archer Avenue

Willow Springs, Illinois



Haunted_Midwest_Roads_1

Starting with Resurrection Cemetery and ending at St. James-Sag Church, this section of Archer Avenue forms the northern border of a triangle of forest preserves, lakes, trails, and burial grounds that could easily be described as the most haunted area in Chicagoland. This region has a well-deserved reputation built upon generations of strange encounters, which makes it a favorite for ghost tours, paranormal researchers, and curiosity seekers alike. Resurrection Mary, one of the most famous ghosts in the United States, hitchhikes down Archer Avenue on her way to Resurrection Cemetery, but neighboring Bethenia Cemetery has tales of its own. Phantom monks lurk in the hills around St. James-Sag Church. Maple Lake's spook lights, the macabre happenings at Fairmount

Hills Cemetery, the “Gray Baby” of Sacred Heart Cemetery, Healing Waters Park, and the phantom riders of 95th and Kean are just some more of Archer Avenue’s fascinating stories and mystery sites.

3. Lemp Mansion

St. Louis, Missouri



Photo by Matt Hucke.
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Lemp_mansion.jpg

This historic mansion in St. Louis’ Benton Park neighborhood was once home to the Lemp, who made their fortune brewing beer prior to Prohibition. The house itself was built in 1868, and in 1876 William J. Lemp and his wife Julia purchased the property. It belonged to that family until 1949, when Charles Lemp (William’s son) committed suicide. Three members of the Lemp family committed suicide in the house, leading to rumors that their tormented spirits still walk its halls. In 1980, Life magazine labeled the Lemp Mansion as one of America’s nine most haunted houses. For years, there have been rumors that William J. Lemp, Jr. fathered a son with one of his mistresses and kept him hidden away in the attic. Believed to have

been deformed, he is referred to as the “Monkey Face Boy.” Subsequent tenants of the mansion reported a wide variety of disturbances, including apparitions, voices, floating objects, and the feeling of being watched. Today, the mansion is a restaurant and inn.

2. Bachelor’s Grove Cemetery

Midlothian, Illinois



Haunted_Midwest_Cemetery

Bachelor’s Grove is hands down one of the most famous haunted cemeteries in America. Every manner of ghost, spook light, and supernatural occurrence has been reported here. One of the most enduring legends concerns a phantom house. In the 1970s, Richard T. Crowe collected stories from dozens of eyewitnesses who claimed to have seen a white farmhouse at various places in the woods alongside the trail, complete with a glowing light in the window. There are several foundations and old brick wells tucked away in the woods —evidence that there were homes nearby sometime in the past.

Another popular ghost is the White Lady, or Madonna, of Bachelor’s Grove, who is said to be searching for her lost infant. This ghost, or one very much like it, was supposedly captured on a now famous photograph taken using infrared film. The pond adjacent to the cemetery has its own share of legends. Stories say it was one of the hundreds of places scattered around Illinois where mobsters dumped their victims during the roaring ‘20s. A policeman reportedly saw the apparition of a horse, followed by a man and a plow, walk out of the pond and cross 143rd Street.

1. Ohio State (Mansfield) Reformatory

Mansfield, Ohio



Built between 1896 and 1910, the Ohio State Reformatory served as a detention center for young, petty criminals. The first inmates were admitted in 1896, and they helped construct the building. Several violent episodes occurred there, including the execution-style slaying of a superintendent and his family at the hands of two former inmates. One form of punishment at Mansfield Reformatory was to send prisoners to solitary confinement in “the hole”—a dark and claustrophobic room—for an indeterminate amount of time. The

Creepiest_Midwest_Abandon

reformatory was closed in the late 1980s. The old superintendent's office, where disembodied voices are heard, is widely believed to be haunted by the ghosts of Helen and Warden Glattke. In the basement, the ghost of a 14-year-old boy who was allegedly beaten to death has been reported. Visitors often experience strong feelings of dread, anger, and fear throughout the former reformatory.

Comments

1. Steve says:

10/31/2014 at 12:29 pm

CMU .. wondering if you ment “Barnard Hall” at CMU instead of “Bernard” in your story. I lived in Barnard Hall when I attended CMU .. Covered with Ivy .. very cool dorm!

• Michael Kleen says:

10/31/2014 at 12:41 pm

2. Tammie says:

10/31/2014 at 1:05 pm

You have misspelled Barnard Hall in your article relating to CMU. I lived there for 5 semesters in the mid '80s and never encountered Carolyn but heard many stories of people who had.

• Michael Kleen says:

10/31/2014 at 1:44 pm

Thank you, I corrected that

Trackbacks

1. Nothing Uncut | THE BEST HORROR MOVIE LOCATIONS TO VISIT THIS HALLOWEEN says:

10/25/2015 at 12:54 pm

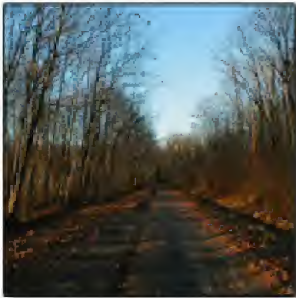
[...] northeast dweller, but I had to put in LA for you west coasters. If you live in the midwest sorry! Nothing scary ever happened [...]

05/26/2014 by Michael Kleen5 Comments

Isolated. Foreboding. Dangerous. Lonely roads make a good setting for a ghost story, and there are plenty snaking their way across the American Heartland. But which is the scariest of them all? Mysterious Heartland is proud to bring you our list of the top 10 creepiest roads in the Midwest! Any of these roads makes an excellent spooky night-time trip, but remember, always be conscious of other motorists – especially if they might be of the undead variety!

10. Boy Scout Lane

Stevens Point, Wisconsin

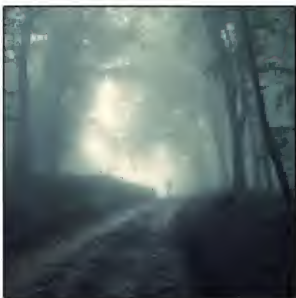


Haunted_Midwest_Roads_10

Though not based in fact, gruesome tales continue to persist about this dead end road west of the Wisconsin River. The road, it is said, was named in honor of several Boy Scouts who died there in the distant past. How they died is up for debate. Some say the scouts were murdered by their bus driver. Others say the scouts became lost in the woods and were never found. Still others say a scout dropped his kerosene lantern, starting a fire that killed the other members of his troop. Since then, visitors to Boy Scout Lane have seen a light that gently bobs through the trees. It is believed to be the light from the lantern that started the fire, or someone searching for the missing scouts.

9. Dead Man's Trail

Thief River Falls, Minnesota



Haunted_Midwest_Roads_9

Before Europeans settled this area of Northwestern Minnesota, it was home to the Chippewa tribe. Today, no one is quite sure how the town of Thief River Falls got its name, but the stories center on a trail running along the Thief River. Some locals refer to this trail as "Dead Man's Trail," and they say an Indian warrior used a cave along the river as a hideout while he was wanted for murder. According to another legend, a young Chippewa woman was chased by unknown pursuers. She hid her newborn near the river so she could move faster, with the intention of coming back for him. When she returned, however, the river had swept the child away. She cursed it as "Thief River" for having stolen her baby. Today, people report seeing the ghost of an Indian maiden desperately searching for her child along the trail.

8. Witch Road

Ripon, Wisconsin

As motorists drive down Callan Road at night, the gnarled branches of barren trees cast



Haunted_Midwest_Roads_8

frightening shadows in their car headlights. Some of these trees begin to take the form of a twisted old crone. The spirit of a witch, they say, inhabits these woods. The remnants of her old house can be found in the woods off to the side of the road. Some visitors have reported seeing the ghost of an adolescent girl hiding behind the trees, still trying to escape the clutches of the witch. Additionally, strange flashing lights have been spotted deep in the woods, and the sound of trickling water echoes down the lonely road at night. Witch Road is not for the faint of heart!

7. Stony Hollow Road

Burlington, Iowa



Haunted_Midwest_Roads_7

The ghost of a heartbroken young woman is widely believed to haunt this road about eight miles north of Burlington, Iowa, near the Mississippi River. According to legend, a young woman named Lucinda was secretly engaged and planned to meet her lover on the bluffs outside of town so that they could elope. The man, however, never showed. Some say his buggy became stuck in the mud. Lucinda was so heartbroken that she threw herself off the cliff and onto the road below. In another version of the legend, she went home and heard rumors that her lover had run away with another woman, and that was why she killed herself. Either way, motorists have reported seeing her ghost on Stony Hollow Road for decades. Supposedly, if you go to the bluffs and say Lucinda's name three times, you will die the next day.

6. Staley Road

New Carlisle, Ohio



Haunted_Midwest_Roads_6

In the early 1800s, a pioneer named John Wrench hired three Staley brothers to build a flower mill. The result was the first double-wheeled mill in Ohio. Business boomed, and Wrench eventually sold his business to Elias Staley. When Elias died, his brother Andrew continued to produce flour at the mill until 1905. Today, the mill still stands, and Staley Road winds its way through the woods near New Carlisle. Teens have taken to driving this road at night to test their courage, or just for a cheap thrill. According to legend, "Old Man Staley" went on a murderous rampage and now haunts the road. Motorists will experience car trouble, including being buffeted about by an invisible force. Others have reported seeing Staley's ghost standing or lying in the road. As the gnarled tree branches close in, it is easy to believe these hair-raising accounts.

If you like this list, you'll love Michael Kleen's Legends and Lore of Illinois: The Definitive Collection!

5. Cuba Road

Lake Zurich, Illinois



Haunted_Midwest_Roads_5

Cuba Road sits nestled between the towns of Lake Zurich and Barrington, both upper and upper-middle class retreats. It is the setting of a plethora of paranormal phenomenon, including a phantom car (or cars), a pair of spectral lovers, and a vanishing house. A side street called Rainbow Road formerly had the distinction of being home to an abandoned mansion that some believed was an old asylum. Along Cuba Road sits White Cemetery, which author Scott Markus has referred to as the Bachelor's Grove of the north-Chicago suburbs.

This small, rectangular graveyard dates from the 1820s and its ghostlore concerns mysterious, hovering balls of light.

4. Laughery Creek Road

Dearborn County, Indiana

A quiet farmhouse used to sit along this road dividing Delaware and Ohio counties. Its physical remains are long gone, but the psychic scars from a gruesome crime cannot be disbursed as easily. In May 1941, a man who had twice married into the Agrue family confronted his in-laws with a shotgun. He brutally gunned down Johnson Agrue, his wife, and their two sons. Then he hid the shotgun in a hollow tree, but later confessed to the crime. Nearly 30 years later, in 1970, the farmhouse mysteriously burned to the ground. Since then, locals have whispered that Laughery Creek Road is haunted by the Agrue family, or perhaps, their killer. Even the bravest souls avoid driving down this road at night, just in case.

3. Knock-Knock Road

Detroit, Michigan



Haunted_Midwest_Roads_3

Ghostly children are almost always creepy, but they are especially so when they appear in unexpected places. This is the case along Strasburg Road in economically ravaged Detroit, Michigan. For years, travelers along this road have reported the unusual sound of a young child rapping on their car doors and windows as they pass. According to legend, an adolescent girl was riding her bicycle in the neighborhood when she lost control and rolled into the busy street. She was struck and killed. Today, her ghost knocks on the windows

and doors of passing motorists, trying to get their attention. Another version of the legend, however, tells of a car full of teenagers who crashed their car into a pole and slowly burned to death. Trapped inside the burning vehicle, they pounded on the windows, desperately trying to alert people to their plight.

2. Zombie Road

Wildwood, Missouri



Haunted_Midwest_Roads_2

Once called Old Fawler Road, this claustrophobic stretch of pavement now known as Al Foster Trail (Rock Hollow Trail in some places) follows the Meramec River, but has been closed to vehicle traffic for years. It has developed quite a reputation over the years, and is well known even outside the St. Louis area. Most of its legends center on an old railroad crossing at the western end of the trail. It is here that laborers who died building the railroad rise from their graves at night—hence the name, Zombie Road. Other folks say the road is named after an inmate named Zombie who escaped from a mental institution and was found dead on the road. In the 1970s, two teenagers were struck and killed by a train near the crossing. Multiple suicides and murders are believed to have occurred here as well. Strange lights, sounds, and sightings have led many to believe Zombie Road is thrilling to visit, but a bad place to stay for too long.

1. Archer Avenue

Willow Springs, Illinois



Haunted_Midwest_Roads_1

Starting with Resurrection Cemetery and ending at St. James-Sag Church, this section of Archer Avenue forms the northern border of a triangle of forest preserves, lakes, trails, and burial grounds that could easily be described as the most haunted area in Chicagoland. This region has a well-deserved reputation built upon generations of strange encounters, which makes it a favorite for ghost tours, paranormal researchers, and curiosity seekers alike. Resurrection Mary, one of the most famous ghosts in the U.S., hitchhikes down Archer Avenue on her way to Resurrection Cemetery. Phantom monks lurk in the hills around St. James-Sag Church. Maple Lake's spook lights, Fairmount Hills Cemetery, the "Gray Baby" of Sacred Heart Cemetery, Healing Waters Park, and the phantom riders of 95th and Kean are just some more of Archer Avenue's fascinating stories and mystery sites.



If you like this article, you will love Michael Kleen's book **Legends and Lore of Illinois: The Definitive Collection**! The **Legends and Lore of Illinois** is an exciting and informative look at Illinois ghostlore. Join the Fallen as they visit some of the most haunted places in the Prairie State – Will they unlock the secrets of the unknown, or will they unwittingly unleash shadows from the darkest recesses of our imagination? Get ready to explore infamous places such as Bachelor's Grove, Airtight Bridge, Resurrection Cemetery, Winston Tunnel, the Seven Gates to Hell, Manteno State Hospital, Axman's Bridge, and many more! What adventures await you inside? Go here to order!

Comments

03/20/2015 at 11:49 am

I'm wondering if the author actually visited these sites. Callan Rd., aka, Witches Road in Ripon WI was named after my family. The willow trees described have gnarly branches giving it a somewhat spooky appearance but other than that it is quite beautiful. There's a stream with natural springs, full of fresh, crisp watercress surrounded by a scattering of deadwood covered in vibrant green moss. More magical than scary but then again.....maybe I'm just a witch, hmmm.

• Michael Kleen says:

03/20/2015 at 9:41 pm

I'm sorry, the author of this blog died 10 years ago in a bizarre gardening accident

Trackbacks

1. Mysterious Heartland's Most Popular Top 10 Lists – Mysterious Heartland says:

08/04/2014 at 7:50 am

[...] 4. Top 10 Most Haunted Roads in the Midwest [...]

2. Mysterious Heartland's Most Popular Top 10 Lists Revisited – Mysterious Heartland says:

04/13/2015 at 7:19 am

[...] 5. Top 10 Most Haunted Roads in the Midwest [...]

3. Poll: What is the Most Haunted Road in the Midwest? – Mysterious Heartland says:

05/07/2015 at 8:17 am

[...] year, Mysterious Heartland brought you a list of the Top 10 Most Haunted Roads in the Midwest, lonely and foreboding avenues that snake their way across the American Heartland. We judged Archer [...]

November 9, 2015 11:48 a.m.

Was a 3-Eyed Catfish Really Caught in the Gowanus Canal?

By Nathan Pemberton Follow @nathanpemberton



Photo: Anonymous via Gothamist

The website Gothamist has reeled in a video of a man fishing off the Hamilton Avenue Bridge into the fetid murk of the Gowanus Canal who appears to have caught a three-eyed mutated catfish. The video is from the point of view of a passerby, who happens upon the man with the fish at his feet. Apparently, someone had told this person with the camera about the fish, which otherwise doesn't seem to have excited the

flannel-clad angler, who continued to fish. The narration: "Dude ... that's nuts! ... It's got three eyes!"

The third eye is centered smack-dab in the middle of the fish's head, suspiciously symmetrical for a mutation. The fisherman claims to have used cheesy bread, probably from that canal-front Whole Foods nearby, to bait the fish, which bears more resemblance to an exhausted bicycle tire than a living creature.

As Gothamist notes, there was the three-eyed fish caught near an Argentinian nuclear power plant in 2011, which of course reminded everyone of the three-eyed fish Blinky caught near the Springfield power plant in *The Simpsons*.

Last year, there was another one, more convincingly asymmetrical in its mutation, caught in a Canada's Lake Nipissing.

Of course, the internet loves its Nessie-like mutant sightings: Remember the Montauk Monster of 2008? Or the one Gothamist also found, in 2012, washed up out of the East River? Or the mystery sea creature with "fur" and a "beak" that washed up on a Russian seacoast this summer? Or the putatively irradiated Japanese monster fish from September that turned out to be merely a big, ugly Bering wolffish?

Which isn't to dismiss the fact that pollution does cause mutations. But for our flannel-clad fisher friend, the more immediate danger is that eating the fish, as he said he planned to do, isn't advisable even if the fish had only two eyes. The man can anticipate a hearty dose of PCBs and heavy metals like arsenic when he puts that baby on the skillet — all toxic to the human body.

But warnings aside, this hasn't stopped a legion of brave, and maybe a little bit mutated in the head, fisherman from trying their luck in the superfund stream over the years.

Still, in the past five years, an uptick in wildlife and birds in the canal's marshes has been reported. A far cry from a period when "a dead dog would just float back and forth with the tides between Third Street and Carroll for maybe a week," as one real-estate agent told the *New York Times* in 1999. A long-awaited dredging begins next year to clean the toxic sediment sludge, or black mayonnaise, from the canal floor.

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The Aztec myth of the 400 drunken Rabbit Gods explains all levels of intoxication

lordsofthedrinks.com

May 13, 2015 by Micky Bumbar (Lords of the Drinks)



A drawing of Tezcatzoncatl, God of the Drunkards and one of the 400 Drunken Rabbits.

Many old civilizations had Gods for almost everything: the sun, the sea, lightning and often also quite a few for alcohol related matters. The Aztecs were no exception. Even though they had very strict laws on alcohol use and abuse, no other tribe or culture had as many 'Booze Gods' as the ancient habitants of Mexico. Thanks to their 400 drunken Rabbit Gods, the children of the Goddess of Alcohol *Mayahuel* and *Petecatli*

(God of Medicine). These 400 thirsty bunnies stood for the infinite ways in which people could intoxicate themselves. Infinite? Yes, in the Aztec numbering 400 was such a big number that it also meant infinity. So when someone got absolutely smashed, people would say he was 'drunk as 400 rabbits'. But there's a lot more to this legend, since some of the rabbits actually had names and background stories. Time for a closer look...

The traditional drink of the Aztecs was called pulque, fermented agave (or maguey) juice that played an important role in religious rituals. But the drink wasn't for just anyone to drink, only old people could taste from this sacred potion. Youngsters who got caught drinking were severely punished, with 'death by strangling' as the ultimate penalty. The reason that young Aztecs couldn't drink pulque originated in a myth. In this story the Goddess of Flowers (including the maguey and its sap), *Xochitl*, gave some pulque to the King of Tula, who got drunk and raped her. It made her also the Goddess of Early Sexuality and Prostitutes. From then on the Aztecs made sure that drinking became a sole activity of the old and experienced men, who could control themselves.

After the rape incident *Mayahuel* became the new Goddess of Pulque. According to the myth she had 400 breasts that all gave quality fermented maguey sap. The 'infinite' amount of children she had with her husband *Petecatli*, who was believed to be responsible for fermentation, were pictured as rabbits, which she nursed with this alcoholic beverage. Since *Mayahuel* had so many mouths to feed, it's no wonder she was also connected to fertility and nourishment. The Aztec name for this nest of bunnies was *Centzon Totochtin*, which literally means 400 rabbits, but they were often referred to as the Gods of Drunkenness. According to the legend they would gather on a regular basis to test their

livers. Here are some of the main characters from this chapter of Aztec mythology:

Tepoztecatl (*Ome Tochtli*) – ‘Two Rabbit’

Strange enough there is no first no bunny called Rabbit I or something. However there is a ‘Two Rabbit’, or in Aztec *Ome Tochtli*. Tepoztecatl, as he was actually named, was considered king of the Drunken Rabbits and God of Pulque. Where his mother is also connected to nourishment, Ome Tochtli is all about fertility and drunkenness, which makes one suspect that like today many babies in those days were conceived after the libido was raised by alcohol.



An Aztec statue in the form of one of the Drunken Rabbits.

Macuil Tochtli – ‘Five Rabbit’

Where Ome Tochtli still knew what moderation in alcohol was, his brother Five Rabbit, or *Macuil Tochtli*, took things a little further. Officially he is the God of Alcoholic Beverages, but he also stood for excess with alcohol and the consequences for that behavior. Basically the Rabbit God of Getting Smashed and Hangovers.

Tezcatzoncatl – ‘The Straw Mirror’

Another devine rabbit is called *Tezcatzoncatl*. He is the God of the Drunkards and according to the myth he was a big one himself too. From time to time Tezcatzoncatl was referred to as ‘The Straw Mirror’, in which of course the drunken state is meant in which you can see as much as when looking in a mirror made of straw.

Colhuatzincatl – The Winged One

A fourth rodent with a taste for pulque is called *Colhuatzincatl*. Actually very little is known about this member of the Centzon Totochtin, just that he was often referred to as ‘The Winged One’. So every experienced drinker can tell you that this was probably the God of one of the earlier stages of intoxication.

Tequehmecauiani – God of Hanging

Yep, you read it right. *Tequehmecauiani* was the God of Hanging. Apparently it wasn’t uncommon for people in the Aztec Empire to accidentally hang themselves when they were drunk. People who feared they would end up in a lethal noose would make an offering to this Rabbit God. Maybe this example refers to the cruel death penalty by strangling for youngsters who secretly got drunk, but otherwise we start to understand how the Aztecs got to 400 different kinds of intoxication.

Toltecatl – God of Early Civilization

The proof that not all of the 400 Rabbit Gods in every day life had anything to do with booze is *Toltecatl*. When he was not getting smashed with his devine brothers, he was simply the God of the older Toltec Culture, which the Aztecs respected and saw as their cultural and intellectual predecessors. From what they knew basically the start of civilization.

Techalotl – God of Dance

The literal translation of Techalotl is ‘Squirrel’ and he was one of the Gods of Dance. Not sure if you ever saw a drunken squirrel dancing but once you got that image it should not be too

hard to understand why Techalotl was one of the Centzon Totochtin. He symbolized that maniac on the dancefloor stepping on everyone's toes.

True animal lovers might want to stop reading now, because the story didn't end well for the Drunken Rabbits. One day they made the mistake of killing the mother of Huitzilopochtli, the Aztec God of War and the Sun. This God, often portrayed as a hummingbird, knew no mercy and chased after the terrified rodents. He decapitated some bunnies, ripped out some hearts, stabbed them or simply threw them off a temple, till all the Centzon Totochtin were dead. The myth of this bloodbath was also used by Aztec priests to justify their ritual human sacrifices. So, we can't really speak of a happy ending here, but next time someone will show you holiday pictures of Aztec temples in Mexico, at least you have something interesting to share on the topic.

Micky Bumbar

Check out more Historical Stories and Mythical Tales

This entry was posted in Folklore and Mythology, Theology and Alcohol and tagged 400 rabbits, agave, alcohol, american history, ancient history, animals, Aztec Culture, Aztec Gods, Aztec law, Aztec Myth, Aztecs, booze, Central America, Centzon Totochtin, Colhuatzincatl, culture, drinking, drunk, drunk bunnies, drunk rabbits, drunken, drunken rabbits, elderly, Five Rabbit, getting smashed, God of Dance, God of the Sun, God of War, Gods, Gods of Drinking, Gods of Drunkenness, hanging, history, Huitzilopochtli, King of Tula, latin america, legend, Macuil Tochtli, maguey, Mayahuel, Mexican History, Mexico, myth, mythology, Ome Tochtli, parties, penalty, Petecatli, pulque, punishments, religion, Sage, shitfaced, smashed, strangling, Techalotl, Tepoztecatl, Tequehmecauiani, Tezcatzoncatl, The Straw Mirror, The Winged One, Toltec Culture, Toltecatl, Two Rabbit, Xochitl, youngsters. Bookmark the permalink.

26 thoughts on "The Aztec myth of the 400 drunken Rabbit Gods explains all levels of intoxication"



1. Dopest Wine Taster says:
May 13, 2015 at 8:11 pm

This is dope. I can't wait to randomly interject this into a conversation like "O, don't worry. Everyone was just drunk as 400 hundred rabbits" than walk away before anyone can ask "wait, what did he just say?"



• Micky Bumbar (Lords of the Drinks) says:
May 13, 2015 at 8:43 pm

Hahaha... You just said that they were drunk as 40.000 rabbits mate. But indeed that would be fun. Will give it a try this weekend.

Cheers,
Micky



■ Dopest Wine Taster says:
May 13, 2015 at 8:48 pm

Must already be!



■ Micky Bumbar (Lords of the Drinks) says:
May 13, 2015 at 8:51 pm

In the way they multiply... And when was this Aztec Empire again? Oh boy, that's a shitload of drunken rabbits!



2. Steph says:
May 13, 2015 at 8:12 pm

oh my...now i have heard it all. Why do i get the impression that males created all these mythological creatures...as an explanation for their excesses. :)

this rabbit article reminds me of my brothers and their need to impress with their muscular "conejos" (rabbits). they'd flex their bicep and show off their "conejo" ...that's what they called them...and it seemed more like a mango to me. haha! :)



● Micky Bumbar (Lords of the Drinks) says:
May 13, 2015 at 8:45 pm

Hahaha well... The sad thing is that these rabbits were supposed to scare people out of drinking. But I find the picture quite hilarious, so it would probably be motivation to drink more.



3. PorterGirl says:
May 13, 2015 at 8:19 pm

I think that this is the best thing I have ever read, ever. I only wish the rabbits had survived to lead us to drunken salvation for the rest of eternity.



● Micky Bumbar (Lords of the Drinks) says:
May 13, 2015 at 8:46 pm

Amen... On the other hand, 400 rabbits getting killed by a single hummingbird, how smashed were they?!



■ PorterGirl says:
May 14, 2015 at 4:43 am

I will never look at rabbits the same way again. You know, someone needs to make a film of this. The 400 rabbits need more recognition.



■ Micky Bumbar (Lords of the Drinks) says:
May 14, 2015 at 8:07 am

Hahaha that could be a real blockbuster. Great idea!



4. Rasma R says:
May 13, 2015 at 9:01 pm

Fascinating indeed. I'm still chuckling to myself about 400 drunken rabbit gods. lol



• Micky Bumbar (Lords of the Drinks) says:
May 13, 2015 at 9:03 pm

Glad you liked it Rasma!
Cheers,
Micky



5. Albert C says:
May 13, 2015 at 9:49 pm

dude, that isn't an Aztec temple, but a Mayan one! In fact the most famous mayan temple. The temple of Kukulkan. if you want an aztec temple, look in google for "el templo mayor"



• Micky Bumbar (Lords of the Drinks) says:
May 13, 2015 at 9:51 pm

It has just been changed but thanks for the tip. Very stupid mistake, thanks for noticing.
Cheers,
Micky



6. Steph says:
May 13, 2015 at 11:16 pm

that is a wonderful picture. anything aztec is gonna touch my roots.



• Micky Bumbar (Lords of the Drinks) says:
May 14, 2015 at 8:06 am

Hope you didn't mean the temple I had as a main picture before. That turned out to be a Mayan one. Stupid me! ;)



■ Steph says:
May 14, 2015 at 8:15 am

aww, dont call urself stupid..sillee boy! LOL. :)

i like the image that u hav now. :)

■ Micky Bumbar (Lords of the Drinks) says:
May 14, 2015 at 8:43 am



Well, full of good intentions of course, eager to put this piece online as soon as possible, but nevertheless stupid. Anyway, if it wasn't for these comments nobody would notice now! :P

Yeah, I like this picture too. Hope it is indeed the right God in the caption. :P



■ Steph says:
May 14, 2015 at 8:47 am

the god of drink?



■ Micky Bumbar (Lords of the Drinks) says:
May 14, 2015 at 9:01 am

Of Drunkards to be more specific. One of the Rabbits, although he doesn't look much like a bunny here. I read that the term rabbits is also chosen cause intoxicated Aztecs would start to see these animals. Guess not that much has changed through the years. In some comics drunks still see human-sized rabbits popping up. :)



■ Steph says:
May 14, 2015 at 9:03 am

Really. maybe alkyhol causes a type of hallucinations...thus seeing rabbits.

When i get intoxicated i get blind. Seriously, i lose vision and things dont seem clear. :)



■ Micky Bumbar (Lords of the Drinks) says:
May 14, 2015 at 9:07 am

Hmmm... I have to be quite drunk to lose vision. Remembering what I saw is a bigger problem! ;)



7. Steph says:
May 14, 2015 at 9:06 am

well, have you heard the term "drunker than ten indians?" i had never heard til recently.

now i am gonna say: drunker than 400 aztecs. lol :)

<http://www.urbandictionary.com/define.php?term=Drunker+than+10+indians>



• Micky Bumbar (Lords of the Drinks) says:
May 14, 2015 at 9:07 am

Hahahaha nice one! :)

8. Pingback: - The Pegu Blog

5 Conspiracy Theories So Stupid They're Genius

Mohammed Shariff

cracked.com

By Adam Wears January 06, 2015 501,112 views

The *X-Files* ruined an entire generation: they made us think conspiracy theorists are sexy, tormented truth crusaders, as opposed to bored message board dwellers with cartoon pony avatars. Fortunately, every once in a while they'll come up with a theory so perfectly stupid that we just have to drop whatever we're doing and tell you about it. Here are five recent paranoid fantasies that would make Fox Mulder laugh his ass off while slowly backing away from whoever spouted them.

#5. "Apple Pay Is the Mark of the Beast!"

Over the last decade, Apple has acquired a legion of new followers, a success that many place on their clever marketing, innovative products, and not being Microsoft. Others argue that it's only because Lucifer has bewitched our minds and rendered us unable to buy anything not available on iTunes. The evidence of this satanic pact? The fact that the Apple Watch and Apple Pay were *totally predicted by the Bible*.



EXACTLY WHERE THE BIBLE SAID IT WOULD BE

Geoffrey Grider

And then Christ did say, "Not another freaking iOS update, I just did one last week." (Giuseppe 17:6)

You may have thought Apple Pay's ability to let you pay for your cappuccinos without cash was a simple convenience, but nope -- the fact that you have to scan your fingerprint to use it was predicted by the Bible verse about the mark of the beast -- a demonic sign that goes on your right hand (*the same place where you'd wear a watch*) or your forehead (*the same place where you'd wear a watch if you got confused*).

According to the Book of Revelation, anyone who doesn't have this mark won't be able to buy or sell ... or continue being alive, but people seem more freaked out about the "no service" part. Also, the Apple Watch will apparently send your body data to the Illuminati, because there's nothing more fascinating to the secret rulers of the world than how often you go to the bathroom.



Godlike Productions

"He's peeing sitting down! Storm the building!"

Happily, we can confirm that the souls of iOS account holders everywhere are safe; this conspiracy has a habit of surfacing once every several years, with the arrival of the Antichrist so far being heralded by barcodes, microchips, WiFi, and -- of course -- Obamacare. At this rate, they'll probably have to resort to suggesting that, we don't know, Danny DeVito is the Antichrist, just to have new material to work with.

#4. "A One Direction Video Proves Danny DeVito Is the Antichrist!"

Huh. That was fast.

If you thought Danny DeVito appearing in a One Direction song was a sign of the end times, well, you're

not alone -- lunatics everywhere are citing the music video for "Steal My Girl" as definite proof that the Illuminati are planning to destroy the Catholic Church (as opposed to "proof DeVito really needs money"). This septuagenarian YouTube vlogger goes over the damning evidence, but if you couldn't make it through that video without worrying about spite-embracing the glories of Satanism, here are some highlights: for starters, DeVito is shown eating an apple, which represents eating the Eucharist, which clearly means he's the Antichrist eating the church or something.



William "Third Eagle of the Apocalypse and the Co-Prophet of These End Times" Tapley

Thus gaining all of its powers, like Kirby.

Second, the name of the video is "Steal My Girl," as in "Steal My Bride," as in "the bride of Christ" -- a rather creepy nickname for the Catholic Church. Also, DeVito first shows up riding in a car with a license plate containing three (non-sequential) sixes. It's like they *want* to get caught!



William "Third Eagle of the Apocalypse and the Co-Prophet of These End Times" Tapley

Four headlights = the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse?

And if you're somehow still not convinced after all that: at one point, we see DeVito and one of the One Direction kids with a monkey, who specifically represents Darwinism, Satan, and possibly even Ebola, all at the same time.



William "Third Eagle of the Apocalypse and the Co-Prophet of These End Times" Tapley

Man, this is the most offensive episode of *It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia* ever.

If you have the time, we heartily recommend checking out this more in-depth list; however, if you can't bear to waste any more minutes of your life on this lunatic conspiracy, just remember that a) the Illuminati apparently signpost their crimes like an all-seeing, all-

powerful version of The Riddler, and b) Justin Bieber never had to deal with any of this bullshit.

#3. "That Comet We Just Landed on Is the Remnants of an Alien Civilization!"

Shirt-related controversies aside, the fact that we managed to land a spacecraft on a moving comet in 2014 is an amazing achievement, but that's still not impressive enough for some people. Nope, according to some top minds in the field (read: "people still using Blogspot"), this whole expedition was actually carried out with another intention: exploring the alien civilization that lies in ruins on the comet's surface. Wait, a dead alien race? Oh shit, did we just land on a huge chunk of Kryptonite?

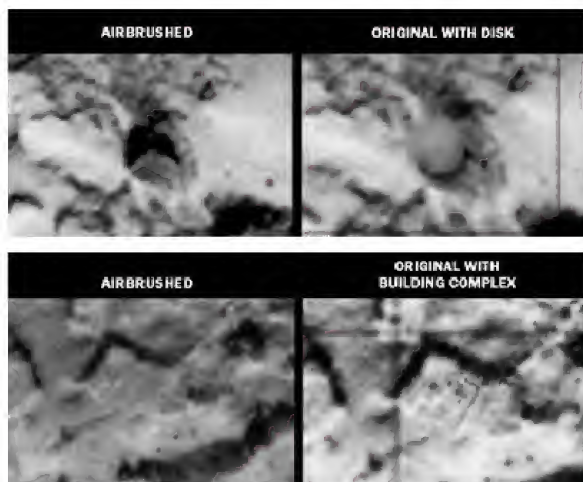
UFO Sightings Daily



"All we know is that they were furry and sassy and they considered cats a delicacy."

According to these asteroidiotis (a nickname we just made up right now, believe it or not), their analysis of the comet's surface using Microsoft Paint yielded the discovery of a massive radio dish. Or a UFO. Or, like, a really weirdly shaped alien base. Whatever it is, it must have been capable of sending out the radio waves that NASA and the European Space Agency supposedly detected 20 years ago, which was the real reason behind this billion-dollar road trip. We know this thanks to an "anonymous ESA employee" who sent an email to various conspiracy theory sites explaining as much,

also attaching these extremely revealing pre-Men-in-Black-censorship photos of the comet:



Secure Team

Hold up, is that the Dharma Initiative logo there?

To be fair, we totally understand why NASA and ESA would avoid telling us about their mission to explore Spacehenge -- if we were in charge, we'd keep it quiet too, lest the Internet start making up ridiculous bullshit and eliciting a retaliatory laser strike from the aliens.

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5 Conspiracy Theories So Stupid They're Genius

Mohammed Shariff

cracked.com

By Adam Wears January 06, 2015 501,116 views

#2. "The iPhone 6 Gives You Ebola!"

Remember the days when satire wasn't just Internet shorthand for "fake stories specifically made up to trick dumb people on Facebook?" For example, take the guys over at Daily Buzz Live, whose idea of comedy is intentionally spawning a conspiracy that the iPhone 6 can infect you with Ebola.



iPhone 6 Phones Contaminated With Ebola Virus - 21,200 Confirmed Cases Since Friday Release



iPhone 6 Phones Contaminated With Ebola Virus - 21,200 Confirmed Cases Since Friday Release

iPhone 6 Phones Contaminated With Ebola Virus - 21,200 Confirmed Cases Since Friday Release. Apple's iPhone 6 was bought up by over 8 million eager...
DAILYBUZZLIVE.COM

Like Page

Daily Buzz Live

Congratulations to our friends, the Daily Mail and BuzzFeed, on their awful, deformed baby.

According to DBL, over 21,000 cases of Ebola have been traced back to a shipment of iPhone 6 units made in Sierra Leone, a number that still isn't as depressing as the near-700,000 people who have shared this stupid bullshit. The article even provides tips for consumers on disinfecting their painful-death-causing phones -- because, you know, it's not like they want to create mass panic or anything. They also claim that "many of the iPhone's [sic] have been contaminated with bodily fluids of infected individuals who assembled the phones," which raises another scary prospect: are Sierra Leonean workers assembling our phones *with their dicks*?

Perhaps the most astonishing part, though, is that of the hundreds of thousands of people who shared this article, no one recognized that this whole story was ripped from an episode of *The Simpsons*.



It's the govt!!!! I keep saying it

October 3 at 8:14am



If the phones are contaminated with anything, it's because of the country in which certain parts of the phone was made, and that's understandable since most of the technology we use is made in other countries. I don't think this is a government conspiracy, if anything, Isis did this.

October 3 at 2:58pm · 2



Well this disease would not have been over here if the govt wouldn't allow exit or entry to and from that country we wouldn't have this problem.

October 3 at 9:57pm · Edited · 2

Lester Mason

Thank you for being the voice of reason, "It was ISIS" guy.

Frankly, it seems ridiculous to debunk DickBait Live's article, because we can just point to the disclaimer declaring their website a truth-free zone. But just to be on the safe side, we'd still advise our readers to avoid using phones covered in someone else's bodily fluids.

#1. "Monster Energy Drink Is Made by Satan!"

Say what you will about Satan, but there's no doubt that the dude has a pretty high-stress job. After all, what with all the endless torture of sinners and people who completed the ice bucket challenge, it must get exhausting down there. However, one truth-seeker has worked out how he manages to have it all: energy drinks. Specifically, this brand:

Andrew Blevins

Somewhere off-camera, there's a teenager going, "Oh God, mom took out the chart."

In a video currently sitting at damn near 8 million views, this concerned lady points out that if you hunt down a can of Monster Energy Drink and a Hebrew dictionary, you can clearly observe how the claw marks kinda-sorta resemble the old Jewish symbol for the number 6. There are three of those marks on



the front of each can, so this means that people everywhere are staying up all night by drinking what might very well be Lucifer's piss. Another implication of this theory is that Satan went through the trouble of disguising the 666 on his product to fool Christians, but when it came time to pick a name, he just said, "Fuck it, go with Monster."



Skeptical Society
"You're Going to Hell for Drinking This Energy Drink" was already trademarked by Red Bull.

As further proof of the demonic conspiracy to enslave the population into Danny DeVitoism, she also points out that the company's slogan "Unleash the Beast" could only be a reference to the Book of Revelation, before asking any remaining viewers if they know what a MILF is. Out of fear that we'd stumbled onto the

most confusing porn film ever, we closed the browser; however, if anyone knows how this video ends, feel free to not tell us in the comments section.

For more from Adam, check out *5 Reasons Conspiracy Theories Are Destroying the World* and *5 Conspiracy Theories That Are So Dumb They're Brilliant*. He'd also like to thank the members of */r/conspiratard* for their help and dedication to vanquishing the forces of stupidity.

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By Caleb A. Scharf November 13, 2015



When did the brain first evolve?

A new study provides substantial support for earlier claims of 520-million-year-old arthropod brain systems, provoking thoughts about the nature of brains, life, and intelligence in the cosmos.

Soft, squishy, and delicate; brain and nervous system tissues may be some of the worst candidates for preservation in the fossil record. In past years the best examples of ancient brain and nerve structures

have come from creatures trapped and preserved in amber that was a couple of hundred million years old. But a few years ago paleontologists claimed to have found evidence of brain structures in the fossil of a 520-million-year-old arthropod - a shrimp-like critter.

That one sample was intriguing but not entirely convincing. Now a new study by Ma et al., reported in *Current Biology* (and a companion paper in *Philosophical Transactions*) has followed up with 7 more examples, together with lab work illustrating how the fossilization process may have happened in order to create the features seen today.



3-inch, 520-million-year-old fossil of *Fuxianhuia protensa*. Insert shows dark features associated with putative 'brain' structure like that in modern organisms (Credit: Xiaoya Ma, insert: Nicholas Strausfeld).

The three-part brain systems may be similar to those in modern insects, arachnids, crabs and lobsters, and appear to be preserved as thin films of carbon or iron oxide-based mineral discoloration. This is a remarkable discovery. The 520-million-year-old fossils come from the Cambrian period, the time in Earth's history where life seems to have undergone a number of profound transitions. That includes the 'Cambrian explosion' in multicellular diversity and the first discoverable remains of

animal ancestral phyla.

Exactly why these brains (dense collections of nerve cells and nerve networks) evolved at this time is open to speculation. But some researchers propose that the advent of multicellular life which had senses and complex body movements and contractions, including those positioned around feeding systems, would gain clear efficiency advantages with specialized and speedy nerve-like cells. Connecting and localizing these cells via nets and clumps would offer further gains, especially as novelties like hunting (and evading hunters) began to pop up in larger and larger bodied creatures.

The bottom line is that the basic biological structures of brains emerged at least half a billion years ago, seemingly very soon after the emergence of truly complex multi-cellular life. Modern human brains may be very different than those ancient arthropod brains, but the evolutionary 'attractor' for specialized neural networks manifested itself a long time ago.

And this raises some interesting thoughts and questions on the nature of life elsewhere in the universe and its potential complexity and intelligence.

The fact that brain structures may have arisen relatively fast once larger, complex-celled, life evolved on Earth does not by itself immediately tell us that this is likely to be a universal phenomenon. In the same way, the apparently early origins of life on Earth doesn't tell us much about the odds elsewhere - a sample size of one gives limited constraints. However, unlike the origins of life - for which we currently have no definitive theory - for brains we have some relatively straightforward ideas (as above) about the how and the why of their development.

It could be that the smear-like remains of 520-million-year-old arthropod brains are pointing towards a cosmos full of neural nets. Exactly how complex those nets are, and whether higher intelligence has emerged in any of them, is unknown, but the odds may be shifting in favor of some interesting possibilities.

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Amulets and talismans have been incalculable item sentimental value to hundreds of thousands of people who believe in them and not blink when putting their fate and destiny in them but the sad reality is that cursed objects have much much more power . It is mere superstition or actually true stories behind each and every one of the possessions and artifacts you'll see here's blood from freezing even the most skeptical can cross the border brutally coincidences.

These are the seven most cursed objects the world:

Number 7

The Myrtles Plantation Mirror

This is an extremely grotesque story, it is an object that is in what is considered popularly and by unanimous most experts as the most bloody and dangerous place in the United States and remains a country with thousands of stories that is enough ie Plantation Myrtles, are in the state of Louisiana.

Founded in the 18th century, it was the kind of place where atrocities committed against slaves whose lives were put at the disposal of their masters day and night, to the point were even the other estates resented the horrors and piercing screams coming from here, but that's just the beginning this residence housed a abominable war power, each family was poisoned; someone once prepared a cake which leaves oleander were placed, an extremely poisonous plant, which ended up killing a woman and her baby, top it off or maybe as an explanation for this dispute as putrid, residence Myrtles is built on a Native American cemetery. The owners knew but did not care desecrate the graves and put the family mansion above, in short, you have as a place where flowing very powerful negative energies. The house has an object that is among the most feared in the world, this mirror:



For decades people have said they see strange things happening within it, the reflections of those who are in it are distorted sometimes horrific way, sometimes say a woman and several children can be reflected with broken faces, flies orbiting through the empty eye sockets that even since the death they look, the mirror of Myrtles Plantation is one of the most feared objects in the world.

Number 6

Painting The distraught man

One should not judge a book by its cover, but in this case resulting staring see the number object 6 apart from anxiety and stress is a powerful sense of unease and discomfort, as he does know, he artist who painted had serious mental problems, so much so that he used his own blood mixed with

paint to make square, it is known that was the last work of this man because soon after he committed suicide finish. It's called Man Distraught and has belonged to the Robinson family for three generations.

Sean Robinson current owner, note that your grandmother always let the painting was evil, because the artist who painted it had a very turbid life, it is not known very well why Mrs. never got rid of the picture, but she was quite unwelcome in the family when he was taken for counting listening macabre voices and cries coming from the basement where they had the painting, and as soon as Sean Robinson inherited it could transmit Justice memory of his grandmother, because not only do it if not his family began experiencing strange phenomena in the house, the man still trembles to remember that your child fell down the stairs and much damage was done the night he hung the piece the living, but not least everyone has heard cries at night and very cold whispers coming downstairs, the man tries to prove that what he says is true, rose many videos on youtube explaining its history and filming close the box if you want to see the link this is the end of the post but watch can ruin your sleep.



Issue 5

The purple sapphire Delhi

This item has inspired countless horror films, is the living example of when art imitates life because it is based on a true story, the Sapphire Purple Delhi has a long and made history have been filmed documentaries about, what happened to each of its owners shortly after owning it is not believed anecdotes about Laja scale dating from 1856. In India, there was a bloody riot in the temple of Indra, this gem was one of the bastions of the palace which incidentally was dedicated to a Hindu god of war and climate, including steps bloodstained a thief stole it

was purchased by a British Colonel Ferriz who led his country almost immediately Ferriz were plunged in serious financial problems that led us to the utter ruin of the family somehow relate to Sapphire with this, so I gave it away to a friend of the family who was not superstitious months after the man committed suicide.

In 1890 a popular writer named Edward Heron Allen bought the gem shortly after the subject grievously complained of a series of misfortunes occurred about it, including economic ruin. Here begins the awful and hopeless Mr. Heron Allen gift Sapphire twice and both times the gift was returned by terrified owners who claimed they were doing badly and somehow knew that damn gem had something to do . Are you ready for the cherry on the cake ...? Prisoner of rage and panic writer climbed a bridge and threw the jewel of the river, three months later returned a jeweler who got it on the shore. This story almost makes man kills himself, but fortunately arrived at a better solution put the jewel in a safe and donated to the Museum of Natural History on the condition not to open the box, until three years after his death and that under no circumstances should retornársele his family undoubtedly a fascinating history that is continuous today.

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Number 4 The Little Bastard

As the number 5, number 4 has been the subject of gossip in overall size it is a Porsche 550 Spyder. What is special? Which is known as the car that killed James Dean. A friend of the famous actor had called the car the "Little Bastard" no one knows exactly why ?, maybe it was a related story that only he and James Dean knew, but the vehicle finally lived up to his name and claimed the life of actor. The housing was purchased by a tycoon named George Barris, but when I took her to the garage on a trailer a few of the links up broke and the vehicle when he broke his leg to a mechanical leaving him crippled forever.

Barris decided not to try your luck and command to debone the vehicle, engine and other parts of Little Bastard were sold to brokers Troy McHenry and William Eschrid when two professionals competed on the track, suffered terribly spectacular accidents McHenry was



burned, Eschrid by his side suffered an accident that took him out of the profession forever, for the rest of Porsche was restored but suffered an attempted robbery shortly after one of the thieves lost an arm trying to steal the steering wheel for resale, the other was severely injured trying to take one of the seats that still had the blood of James Dean, years after the garage where the car was suffered an incident and caught fire, hewn entirely the place. Want to know more?The

Little Bastard almost suffered no damage, the rest of the workshop remained unrecoverable.

No. 3

The damn chair Thomas Busby

This story is downright horrifying perhaps is the most violent in the world cursed object because if the story is true then an effect is almost mediate many sources and take any and all related stories as true. In 1702, a brutal murderer and butcher named Thomas Busby was sentenced to death by hanging, his last wish was a dinner served at your favorite bar the wish was granted when the guards made him rise from his chair after eating exclaimed the man: that death comes to anyone who dares to sit in my chair ... !!!

The object stayed there and became a tourist attraction that was preserved for centuries in the local, the problem is that they started making bets around it, but the documented history begins from WWI soldiers, waiters and bar owners said that all soldiers who sat in that chair ever returned from the war.



In 1967 a pilot in the Royal Air Force in England suffered a plane crash that claimed his life just hours after lunch using that chair, on a different date other Air Force pilot had a horrible death, this Once in his truck knew he had used the famous chair trying to prove that superstitions were ridiculous. The story continues even beyond a worker who also accepted the bet sit in it died that afternoon when the roof on working collapse, then the terror that caused the chair was such that it was moved to the basement of the establishment but asked to kill again. A

dealer who carried goods sat on it to make a Gracita the owner, the man died in a bloody accident as much as that day was the straw that broke the camel, the chair was donated to

the local museum where you can see until today but for security reasons even the most superstitious approved this will tie up several feet off the ground so that no one particularly funny to sit. Better safe than sorry.

Number 2

Otzi. The Iceman

To say that the number 2 is an object may be risky because it is a corpse, all who know his story say is cursed, it would be good to ask the explorers who took him from his resting place in the Alps the problem is that this is impossible, because all died tragically. Seven people in 1991 got the remains of a human being who lived more than five thousand four hundred years ago, his appearance as you would expect is horrible but the really creepy the finding would develop in the following years, seven explorers who made the discovery and removal died, not naturally.

One, Helmut Simeon remained crushed in an avalanche to explore the same area where they got the body shortly after, another died of a very strange blood disorder that never had been detected until after the incident, in one of his last interviews before his death the poor guy said he believed the matter was related to the discovery, another died of unidentified causes at home while writing a book on the subject, but the worst of all was a man named Gunter Henn who suffered a freak accident, hard to believe but on his way to a university to give a lecture about the Iceman during his funeral it was revealed that another and a few scouts alive Dieter Warnecke died of a stroke heart and shortly thereafter another MS.



Number 1 The Goddess of Death and The Woman in Lemb

This difficult for many to understand the primal art in this case we speak of a sculpture that has more

than 3500 years, was discovered in 1878 in Cyprus and is called The Goddess of Death is like the goddess of fertility shape has absolutely unattractive but the supposed curse that entails is frightening, valuable object was owned by Elphont one of the most successful bourgeois families in the world at that time six years after the seven family members died in tragic and mysterious circumstances, but not here when all pointed the finger at the statue and made responsible for this tragedy the story just revving the statue became a possession of Mr. Ivor Mannucci another great bourgeois then, four years later all family members died.



The goddess of death passed to Thompson-Noel, believe it costs a lot but again in four years in the future his family was completely obliterated disease, accidents, murders by then the object had a terrible reputation, but there was someone who did not believe those things Sir Alan Biverbrook, a great collector who bought the statue in the impossible, the unthinkable happened again two daughters died first followed his wife and finally in total ruin he took his own life. Logically from here nobody wanted to take over the object so it was donated to the Scottish Museum in Edinburgh where they can be seen. The question remains I would encourage you HAVE THIS IN YOUR HOME?

MAS Is the curse continues Annabelle doll?

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7-Foot Tall Hellhound Skeleton Unearthed Near Ancient Monastery in UK

Published 12:13, 21 November 2015

7tales.net



7-Foot Tall Hellhound Skeleton Unearthed Near Ancient Monastery in UK

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How often do legends prove to be real? Well, not often enough, but this time, using the latest technology available, archaeologists might have uncovered a 16th century legendary hellhound.

Known by the name of Black Shuck – a name believed to derive from an

old English word for black “demon”, the 7-foot tall dog appeared as a bringer of death in many tales from 500 years ago. In the 16th century, the inhabitants of the British Isles were horrified by the brutal deaths committed by this giant hellhound with burning red eyes.

It took about 500 years for archaeologists to uncover its earthly remains under the ruins of Leiston Abbey in Suffolk, in a nameless grave thirty inches deep, while several pottery fragments were covering its body. The massive dog skeleton was analyzed by a veterinarian who approximated its weight at about 200 pounds when it lived, while measuring not less than 7 feet on its hind legs.



Could these skeleton remains have belonged to the feared Black Shuck? And if so, why would it rest under holy ground after all the atrocities it had committed? Could this find reveal some kind of ritualistic form of burial used upon the feared dog?

According to local folklore, Black Shuck made its presence noticed during a brutal storm on August 4, 1577, at Holy Trinity Church in Blythburgh, almost seven miles from Leiston in Suffolk. Fearful for their lives, the villagers found shelter inside

the church, but the massive wooden doors couldn't withstand the rage of the beast.

A thunder struck the door open and the snarling creature caved in. It claimed the life of a man and a boy before the steeple crashed through the roof. The giant dog then left the church, leaving behind him scorch marks from its claws on the door of the church which can be observed even today.

THE RUINS OF LEISTON ABBEY

The above episode is described in Reverend Abraham Fleming's book A Strange and Terrible Wunder:



"This black dog, or the devil in such a likeness (God he knoweth all who worketh all) running all along down the body of the church with great swiftness, and incredible haste, among the people, in a visible form and shape, passed between two persons, as they were kneeling upon their knees, and occupied in prayer as it seemed, wrung the necks of them both at one instant clean backward, in so much that even at a moment where they kneeled, they strangely died."

According to the latest radiocarbon dating tests, the strange remains seem to correspond to the time when Black Shuck was terrorizing Eastern Anglia and Suffolk region. If it was indeed the feared hellish beast or someone's faithful and extremely big hunting dog we can only assume, but the legend remains, with people remembering it through rock songs or by naming local clubs or antique shops after the Black Dog who once terrorized the surrounding area.

<http://ufoholic.com/>

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8 dead babies found in German apartment - CNN.com

By Greg Botelho and Sara Mazloumsaki, CNN Updated 2:07 PM ET, Fri November 13, 2015
2015-11-13T11:33:56Z

cnn.com

- All 8 bodies were wrapped in towels and placed inside plastic bags, police say
- Prosecutor: 45-year-old woman authorities are looking for is the babies' presumed mother
- The bodies are in poor condition, the state prosecutor adds

(CNN)The bodies of eight babies have been found wrapped in towels and inside plastic bags in an apartment in Germany's Bavaria state, police said Friday -- a gruesome discovery that spurred authorities to hunt for the woman who last lived there as they try to explain why and how this happened.

A woman in the town of Wallenfels called authorities Thursday afternoon after finding one body, said Jurgen Stadter, a police spokesman based about 30 miles west in Coburg.

Authorities went to the apartment and found six additional corpses, Bavarian police said Friday. The same agency reported later in the day on its website that another newborn's body had been found -- and, like the seven others, it was wrapped in a towel and placed in a plastic bag.

Martin Dippold, a state prosecutor in Coburg, did not say exactly where the various babies' bodies were found, their estimated ages, their presumed cause of death or how long ago they'd likely died.

Yet Dippold did say, "The (bodies) are in poor condition."

The results of forensic examinations, which could reveal significant information about what happened, aren't expected back until next week. And no one has been arrested in connection with their deaths.

But authorities are looking intently for the apartment's most recent occupant, a 45-year-old woman. Dippold said authorities expect this woman is the mother of the babies.

Wallenfels is a town some 80 miles (130 kilometers) north of Nuremberg and 110 miles south of Leipzig. It is in the eastern part of Bavaria, the southeastern German state also known as Bayern that borders the Czech Republic and Austria.

CNN's Nadine Schmidt contributed to this report.

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8 things you (probably) didn't know about the history of railways

Tuesday 27th October 2015

historyextra.com



1845: an early English steam locomotive hauling a tender and three carriages adapted from horse-drawn coaches. (Photo by Lambert/Getty Images)

In *Making Tracks: A Whistle-Stop Tour of Railway History*, Peter Saxton shares facts, trivia, and anecdotes chronicling the shift from steam trains to diesel and electric.

Here, writing for *History Extra*, Saxton brings you eight lesser-known facts about the history of railways...

Heavy going

Early railway engineers had to overcome extraordinary challenges when building their lines. Steam engines tend not to deal well with heavy inclines, so every effort was made to keep railways as flat as possible. This resulted in huge engineering structures: bridges, tunnels, embankments and cuttings began to appear across the country.

In some areas, even flat land could be a problem. When surveying the route for his Liverpool and Manchester Railway in the 1820s, George Stephenson had to figure out a way to cross the large peat bog known as Chat Moss in Manchester. He came up with the solution of floating the railway across the bog on a bed of tree branches and heather, bound together with tar and rubble.

Huge amounts of material were swallowed by the bog before enough of a foundation was built up. The line exists today and was recently electrified as part of the modernisation of rail routes in the north-west of England.

Tunnelling pioneers

A damp problem of another kind faced Marc Brunel and his son, Isambard Kingdom, when they undertook to dig the first tunnel under the Thames, between Wapping and Rotherhithe.

Originally designed as a foot tunnel, construction started in 1825 but the tunnel wasn't opened until 1843, because of gas leaks, floods, and financial problems. The Brunels used a revolutionary method of construction called the 'shield': an iron framework containing 36 chambers, each large enough to contain a workman.

Wooden shutters were installed at the front of each chamber and the whole apparatus was positioned against the surface to be excavated. The workmen removed the wooden shutters and proceeded to dig away at the earth facing them. Once they had dug to the required depth, they would prop up their excavated chamber, place the wooden shutter against the new earth face, and the whole structure would be winched along for the process to start again.



English engineer and inventor Isambard Kingdom Brunel (1806–59) standing in front of the launching chains tethering his steamship the 'Great Eastern' during its construction in London in November 1857. (Photo by Robert Howlett/Hulton Archive/Getty Images)

This must have been back-breaking, unimaginably hard work, with the constant risk of the river breaking through. Upon completion the tunnel became an immediate tourist attraction, with people flocking to experience the thrill of walking beneath the river. Eventually, though, it became part of the railway network, and today it sees an intensive railway service as a part of the London Overground network.

Telling the time

Before the railways were built, communities across the UK set their clocks according to their own local time. Bristol, for example, was 10 minutes behind Greenwich Mean Time. This was fine for as long as the pace of life was governed by the natural speed of humans and horses, but the advent of a fast, structured form of transport in the railways meant that a standardised system of time became imperative.

The risk to safety of various parts of the country working on slightly different, locally agreed time is clear, not to mention the difficulty in constructing understandable timetables. The Great Western Railway had already adopted standardised time, but it was the Railway Clearing House – a body set up to apportion financial receipts among the many private railway companies – that set the pace elsewhere. It decreed in 1847 that all railway companies should operate using GMT, and by 1855 the vast majority of towns and cities had complied. Clocks were set to a signal set to GMT sent along the newly installed telegraph system.

Charles Dickens and railways

Charles Dickens had described the coming of the railway to London's Euston station in a powerful passage in *Dombey & Son* (1848). He described the havoc and dislocation brought to Stagg's Garden (Camden) as an almighty canyon that was cut through the existing streets.

Dickens was in fact a prolific user of railways, both in Britain and on the occasion of his visits to the United States. In 1865, however, he was involved in a tragedy that would change his life: Dickens was returning from the continent with his mistress, Ellen Ternan, and her mother,

on 9 June 1865. Near Staplehurst in Kent, a gang of workers was busy repairing the track – they had, however, misread the timetable and had thought there was no train due. They had removed a section of track, and the train, hitting this missing section, crashed down into the valley of the river Beult.



Composite photograph of three prints: the South Eastern Railway's fast 'tidal' train from Folkestone, carrying 110 passengers returning from Paris via Boulogne, derailed on the bridge over the River Beult near Staplehurst on 9 June 1865, killing 10 passengers and injuring 49 others. Among the survivors was the author Charles Dickens. (Photo by SSPL/Getty Images)

Dickens' carriage was precariously close to the edge – he and his companions managed to climb out and he then went down into the valley to help the victims. Dickens later remembered that he had left the manuscript of *Our Mutual Friend* in the carriage, and he climbed back into the wreckage to retrieve it.

The incident marked him – he had flashbacks for the rest of his life, and the year after the crash he published his eeriest short story, *The Signalman*: the chilling tale of a lonely signalman, haunted by an apparition that appears just before tragedy strikes.

The competitive edge

All over the world, railway companies produced locomotives that were grand statements of the new age. As technology improved, trains got faster and railway companies vied with one another to produce the fastest locomotives.

In the 1920s and 30s, the two great companies running trains between London and Scotland engaged in a battle to win passengers to their lines. These were the London, Midland and Scottish Railway (LMS), running up the West Coast line, and the London and North Eastern Railway (LNER), running up the East.

William Stanier of the LMS produced the Princess Coronation class of locomotive – the most powerful steam engine to be built for use in Britain – and for a time one of these engines held the steam speed record, beating its arch rival the LNER. The latter, however, held the trump card. Designed by Sir Nigel Gresley, the A4 class of locomotive was a sleek, streamlined

wonder, and on 3 July 1938, one of the class named Mallard famously snatched the record back, reaching 202.8 km/h (126mph) and achieving a record for steam that still stands today.

Design for London

City transport systems also invested in strong design, such as the Art Nouveau Metro stations designed by Hector Guimard in Paris or the huge decorated stations on the Moscow Metro. In London, from the early decades of the 20th century, transport companies recognised the value of a strong image for the transport system. Underground station platforms had become cluttered with advertising that made it difficult for passengers to pick out the actual station name boards.



Advertisements for beer and port at Holborn Underground Tram Station, London, 1931. (Photo by City of London: London Metropolitan Archives/Heritage Images/Getty Images)

Consequently, Albert Stanley and Frank Pick, two geniuses of early brand awareness, created a standardised name board consisting of a blue bar showing the station name against a solid red circle. This later evolved to become the ubiquitous London Transport roundel seen throughout the capital today.

Further to this, Pick decided to commission designer Edward Johnston to come up with a new typeface, bold and clear, that could be used on signage throughout the system. The Johnston typeface can still be seen across the London transport network – in the 1970s it was tweaked slightly to create New Johnston, but the principle of clarity remains.

Plan, plan, plan

The railway network in India was planned in its earliest years by the then governor general, Lord Dalhousie. He stipulated that there should be a common 'gauge' (the width between the rails), and he settled on 1676mm (5ft 6in) – wider than the generally adopted standard.

In such a vast country, the need for a coherent system to link the cities and regions was paramount – initially, of course, with the imperial objective of moving troops and goods quickly and efficiently. Today India has a well-used railway system that with a few exceptions runs throughout on one gauge.

In Australia, however, there was no one to plan out a rail system for the whole country. Early signs were promising, with an objective laid out that the standard gauge be adopted throughout the country. Unfortunately, a farcical set of circumstances ensued, with one Irish chief engineer in New South Wales plumping for the Irish broad gauge, only to be replaced by a Scottish engineer who favoured the standard gauge.

The decision by Queensland and South Australia to adopt a narrower gauge still meant that once the various networks met up with one another, Australia had an almighty transport-related headache. As early as 1911, agreement was reached to convert lines to standard gauge where possible – this is a process that continues today, where finances allow.

The high-speed dream

Speed has been a key selling point for the railways throughout their history. In 1957, Japan opened its first high-speed line and has since become famous for its (to British eyes) unbelievably punctual network. Countries around the world are investing in high-speed networks – none more so and most astonishingly than China.

A slow starter in railway history, China has invested huge amounts in steam technology, building main line steam locomotives right up to 1988. In a complete reversal of this policy, in recent years the country has invested huge sums of money in its high-speed network, meaning that today it possesses the biggest network of high-speed lines in the world, and one that continues to grow.

China is also home to the fastest regular service in the world, albeit not on a conventional railway: the Shanghai Maglev (magnetic levitation) train operates from Shanghai Airport and reaches a top speed of 431 km/h (268mph).

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By Jenan Taylor

November 2015

If all goes well this spring, hundreds of glossy young eels will swim into a river mouth near Portland, Victoria, and navigate their way up old lava-flow channels into the wetlands of Gunditjmara country, where they will live for the next ten to 20 years. "But they'll only swim into the river with the freshest water," adds Tyson Lovett-Murray, a

Gunditjmara ranger.

We're leaning over the edge of a boardwalk at Tyrendarra, an indigenous protected area about three and a half hours south-west of Melbourne, musing about the secret lives in the pond beneath us. Eels were once central to the survival of the people who lived on the stony rises we'll be touring. The Gunditjmara built canals to divert the water, and rock traps to hold and harvest the aquatic creatures. Today, bird calls and tadpoles and waving grasses are plentiful. I've studied the Gunditjmara seasonal calendar....

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What indigenous people know about ecology and climate has long stirred the attention of researchers, but written records remain sparse. In 2002, the Bureau of Meteorology, with its online Indigenous Weather Knowledge project, was one of the first organisations to publish and promote some examples of Aboriginal seasonal calendars. In 2009, CSIRO began publishing indigenous calendars on their website and have completed seven so far. These are, however, very limited in their scope. The focus of both agencies has mostly been on the northern part of Australia, and the calendars – whether they be a wheel or a table representing the cycle of plant and animal life or the change of wind specific to a geographic area – usually emerged from other research activities. Some calendars have just two seasons, while others, like the one belonging to the Gunditjmara people, have six. Some are accompanied by detailed records of elders' observations; others merely hint at cyclical patterns. The Bureau of Meteorology's Northern Territory regional director, Todd Smith, says the bureau's project strengthens relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, but doesn't contribute to its

weather forecasting and warning systems capabilities.

David Jones, an urban and environmental landscape expert, believes indigenous ecological calendars are appropriate for our environment. "The European four seasons we've inherited simply don't work here. The Aboriginal seasons [are] far more refined and attuned to the ecological patterns of Australia's landscapes, and, if you use them correctly, it actually gives you better guidelines of when you should be doing planting or revegetation projects or firing of landscape, rather than simply using arbitrary dates."

The wider public doesn't know more about indigenous seasonal logic because the indigenous communities themselves, distrustful due to white society's historical lack of respect for Aboriginal culture, have often withheld ready access to it.

The Gunditjmara, Jones says, are now drawing on their understanding of the seasons, as well as Western science and astute observations of political systems, to build a platform for their World Heritage aspirations.

Their native title win – over 140,000 hectares in 2007 – enabled the community to jointly manage Mount Eccles National Park with the Victorian government. It also allowed them to take back Lake Condah, a vast basin and traditional site of their aquaculture system, which had been drained for use by European settlers.

Since the ruling, the group has re-flooded Lake Condah and, through their legal, environmental and cultural interests arm, the Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation, formed strong connections with a number of government agencies, non-traditional organisations and landowners.

Lovett-Murray, 26, grew up nearby in the town of Heywood and spent much of his childhood following his mother, then a cultural heritage officer, around country. He points out where the Gunditjmara, once comprising 57 clans, lived in stone houses built with "all the doors facing north-east, so they would avoid the winds from the south-west in winter". Only four or five clans make up his mob now, while the remnants of the dome-shaped houses, fish traps and old weirs lie open to the climate, softened in part by moss and trees. Archaeologists, palaeontologists, botanists, engineers, anthropologists and meteorologists "all come through regularly".

No one seems to have a handle on the precise age of some of these ancient remains, but there's growing evidence that some could be more than 6000 years old.

Recently, Gunditj Mirring commissioned a nine-volume literature review of its people's traditional knowledge. Elder Denis Rose says his community needed it because so much of their knowledge had been lost through assimilation, separation and dispossession, or had died with elders. "We know things about the seasons, when to burn or when to eel, but we don't pretend to be experts on it."

Seasonal knowledge is just one piece in a much bigger picture, he tells me.

"Thirty years ago, the only little bit of land the Aboriginal communities had around here was at Lake Condah Aboriginal Cemetery. We used to spend a helluva lot of time down at that cemetery ..." Rose laughs self-consciously. "It was the tiniest cemetery in Australia, for sure, but it was the only bit of land we had access to where we didn't have to get permission off people."

Now his community trains and employs rangers to look after their land, and gives others who don't live nearby a chance to connect with their country.

Some of the area's farmers are coming to see the land through indigenous eyes. Gunditj Mirring swaps knowledge with landowners and a catchment authority, in an arrangement known as 'Yarns on Farms'. It usually starts with a cup of tea, perhaps a walk across the farmer's paddock and a look-around. The landowners also visit Gunditj Mirring-managed properties and learn about its work. It's not about comparing differences, Rose says, but looking at similarities. Sharing is seen as a key to living

sustainably. Early on, the only way to make contact with some white families and properties in the area was to count on the bush telegraph or to cold-call them.

Lovett-Murray remembers his initial anxiety about the initiative. He had heard that in the early 1980s, when his people won the right to protect cultural sites, there had been phone calls and threats. "Some of those farms had been in people's families for three or four generations," he says. "I kept thinking, *Why would they want to talk to us?* It turned out that a lot of them had been wondering the same thing."

The rangers have completed 29 farm visits in three years, and they get regular calls from community conservation groups who also want to be involved. "Farmers will bring stone axes and other artefacts they've found on their land or tell us stories they remember about our mob. It builds that respect between two groups. If these stories aren't told, they could be lost."

Our final stop is Budj Bim (Mount Eccles), the volcanic crater at the top of the lava-flow terrain in the national park. The air smells like mint tea and eucalyptus, and gravel crunches underfoot as we pass barbecue pavilions and a modest bungalow. Lovett-Murray says the Budj Bim Council, which administers the national park and is made up of representatives from Gunditj Mirring and state and local government departments, meets here. It is also a place of sacred totems, such as cockatoo and emu, and traditional dances. At a lookout area I peer down the bush-covered slopes and into the crater. Lake Surprise is a dozen shades of green.

Lovett-Murray suggests we get going. He has been keeping an eye on the birds settling in the trees around us, and there are some signs that he never ignores.

"Five black cockatoos mean five days of rain," he murmurs as we head back to the car.

Jenan Taylor

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Saturday, September 26, 2015

A Dark Mystery.

2 comments



The Carlton House was a cheap hotel on the corner of Franklin and William Streets in New York City. The basement of the building housed shops and a laundry, and below them was a sub-cellar that served as a repository for ashes and refuse from the hotel and businesses above. In the fall of 1884, the Board of Health received several complaints about the unclean condition of the cellar. After inspecting the premises, the board ordered the owner of the property to remove the heaps of dirt and ashes that had accumulated there.

After about a week of hoisting barrels of rubbish up to the street, one of the workmen found what he thought was a slender piece of wood. When he grabbed it and tried to pull it out, he dropped it quickly, with a cry of terror. It was not a piece of wood, but the leg of a woman, dried and shriveled. The workmen removed about six inches of dirt, uncovering the corpse of a young woman who had been dead for more than a year. She was wearing a black cloth sacque, with lace trimmings on the sleeves, a brown cloth dress and muslin underskirt. On her legs were blue and white striped stockings, partially worn away or eaten by mice. The flesh of the body had wasted from the frame which was now little more than a skeleton.

The Carlton House was notorious for the number of suicides that occurred there; at least 20 since 1868, but it was not believed that the woman killed herself. The street entrance to the sub-cellar was always kept locked and entrances through the hotel or the shops were not open to the public. There were no definitive signs of violence on the corpse. How she died and what she was doing in the sub-cellar was a mystery.

The morgue was open for public viewing, and several people identified the body as a missing relative or friend, but only one identification was taken seriously. Charles Sprenger examined the body and the clothing and was positively convinced that the woman was his sister Johanna Schmidt. Her marriage had been an unhappy one; she and her husband, Frederick, quarreled violently over Johanna's familiarity with Ludwig Hart, a barber who boarded with the Schmidts. Johanna left her husband on June 27, 1883, Hart disappeared then as well. No one in the family had heard from her since.

Around the same time, Benjamin Gray who ran a print shop below the Carlton House, suddenly moved out. In the room he had occupied was a trap door to the sub-cellar. Charles Williams, who worked in a billposting office in the building remembered a disturbance in the sub-cellar one night, shortly after Gray left, sounding as if someone was trying to break into the hotel. An investigation at the time revealed nothing, but Williams was convinced that the murder had occurred that night. The police, who had been searching for Ludwig Hart were taken by how similar his description was to that of Benjamin Gray—slender, medium height, distinctive black mustache. They adopted the theory that the two were the same person.

The police found Benjamin Gray—whose real name was Samuel S. Gray—in the New Jersey State Prison, where he was serving a thirteen-year sentence for attempting to murder his wife. Eighteen days before Johanna Schindt disappeared, Gray married Mary Ann Downey and took her to live in Dover, New Jersey. Gray was a restless man, moving back and forth between New Jersey and New York, never spending more than a week at a time with his wife. After an argument over money in October 1883, Gray took Mary Ann into the woods, beat her with a club and left her for dead. She regained consciousness and returned to Dover, where she told her story, sending her husband to prison. Gray, of course, denied any knowledge of Johanna Schmidt or a body in the sub-cellar of the Carlton House.

Meanwhile, in New York, the identity of the body was once more in question. Charles Sprenger had been certain the body was that of his sister Johanna, but his younger sister, Emma, was just as sure that it was not. On December 7, it was reported that Charles Sprenger received a telegram from Johanna saying that she was alive and well. For the sake of her privacy, he would not reveal her location, but he was now convinced that the body was not Johanna's. The police, however, were not convinced, and believing that Sprenger family was lying to protect their reputation, continued under the assumption that the victim was Johanna Schmidt.

In New Jersey, more than a year after the attempted murder, Mrs. Gray had forgiven her husband and was now working to have him pardoned. She was arrested in Philadelphia, suspected of having knowledge of the Carlton House murder. Mrs. Gray denied any knowledge of the murder and believed that her husband was innocent, but she called him a peculiar man—"secret, mysterious and suspicious." He slept with his clothes bundled under his head for fear that she would search them. Six months after their wedding she knew no more about him than she did six months before. She knew he saw other women—Mary Edwards, Lizzie Fitzgerald—but knew nothing about Johanna Schmidt. However, she would not rule out murder, "He nearly killed me once, and a man like that would do almost anything."

In the end, there was nothing to directly implicate Samuel Gray in the murder or even identify the victim with certainty. With an absence of any hard evidence, the murder case soon turned cold. Nothing had been accomplished by the investigation but the airing of two families' dirty laundry. The "Carlton House Skeleton" was buried in an unmarked grave in New York's potter's field; the circumstances around her death remain a dark mystery.

Sources:

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"Identifying the Body." *The Sun* 4 Dec 1884.
"Is He the Murderer?" *Trenton Times* 5 Dec 1884.
"Mrs. Schmidt Alive and Well." *New York Times* 7 Dec 1884.
"Not Mrs. Schmidt's Body ." *New York Herald* 9 Dec 1884.
"Still a Mystery." *New York Herald* 6 Dec 1884.
"The 'Carleton House' Mystery." *New York Herald* 7 Jan 1885.
"The Carleton House Horror." *New York Herald* 5 Dec 1884.

2 comments :

Ann Marie Ackermann says:
October 1, 2015 at 8:57 AM

Interesting post....

Identifying a year-old body in 1884 must have been quite a challenge. It's noteworthy that the police allowed public viewing -- that must have been because they thought it was their only chance to identify it. Had the science of identifying bodies via dental records developed by 1884, or did that only come with the advent of X-rays?

Robert Wilhelm says:
October 1, 2015 at 6:56 PM

Allegedly, the trial of John White Webster for the murder of George Parkman, in 1849, was the first use in court, of dental work to identify a victim:

<http://www.murderbygaslight.com/2010/02/murder-at-harvard.html>

But they already had a good idea who it was.

For the most part, dental records were not available, and if the victim was not readily identifiable, they would often let the public view the corpse. The problem was false positives, especially if the head was missing or face distorted – everyone wanted to believe the corpse was their lost loved one.

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A Guide to Common Alabama Grave Markers



Above-ground tomb

Above-ground tomb -- A structure for the entombment of human remains, which is entirely above ground, and which is designed in such a way that space is available for one or more coffins. In Alabama, true above ground tombs generally are located in colonial period cemeteries established or heavily influenced by the Spanish and French populations who originally settled in the area.

Artificial stone -- A term used to describe various materials also known as art marble, artificial marble, cast stone, and composite stone. Some mixture of stone chips or fragments is generally embedded in a matrix of cement or plaster, and the surface may be ground, polished, molded, or otherwise treated to simulate stone.#

Bluestone -- A trade term applied to hard, fine-grained, commonly feldspathic and micaceous sandstone or siltstone of dark greenish to bluish gray color that splits readily along bedding planes to form thin slabs. Commonly used to pave surfaces for pedestrian traffic, this material may occasionally be seen in gravestones.#



Box tomb

Box tomb -- A structure resembling a rectangular box, with approximate measurements of three feet by six feet and two to three feet high, with a flat top designed to hold a ledger stone and placed over an in-ground burial. Box tombs were usually built of brick or the local stone, although some were constructed of marble. Occasionally, a box tomb in the shape of a coffin is identified in a cemetery. Box tombs were sometimes referred to as "vaults" or "crypts" during the time period that they were popular (in Alabama this was during the first half of the nineteenth century). Another term occasionally used for this structure is "chest tomb," although this usually infers more massive structures with decorative carvings that are associated with higher social classes.

Brownstone -- A trade term applied to dark brown and reddish brown sandstone quarried and extensively used for building in the eastern United States during the middle and late nineteenth century. In gravestones, most commonly used as bases, although common in some areas for tablet stones as well.#

Burial ground -- Also "burying ground" and "graveyard" (see below).*

Burial site -- A place for disposal of burial remains, including various forms of encasement and platform burials that are above ground or enclosed by mounded earth.*

Burying ground -- A term usually applied to public spaces (during the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries) dedicated to the interment of bodies (also burial ground).

Cemetery Glossary—Page 10

Vault -- A burial chamber, especially when underground.*



White Bronze

White Bronze -- A material fairly popular for grave markers during the last decades of the nineteenth century, "white bronze" is almost pure zinc. When exposed to the elements, a protective blue-grey colored coating forms on the exterior. A number of companies made white bronze items, but the Monumental Bronze Company, based in Bridgeport, Connecticut, was apparently the only one that made grave markers. The firm had at least four subsidiaries, including one in New Orleans. The markers range from modest to elaborate and contain a variety of funerary designs popular during the time period. with the Woodmen of the World Life Assurance Society that historically provided an insurance rider to furnish memorial stones to its policyholders. Common in the States.



Woodmen of the World

Woodmen of the World -- A unique genre of markers crafted to resemble tree stumps or arrangements of logs. Attached tablets or hanging scrolls are used for biographical data and epitaphs. Associated with the Woodmen of the World Life Assurance Society that historically provided an insurance rider to furnish memorial stones to its policyholders. Common in the southern United States.

Wrought iron -- Malleable iron that is heated and then worked into the desired shape by hammering, bending and twisting. This type of ironwork is generally associated with blacksmithing. Most wrought iron found in cemeteries tends to be from earlier time periods. Fences and other items were manufactured for decorative use in cemeteries.

Zinc -- See "White Bronze."

* denotes definitions provided by National Register Bulletin #41, Guidelines for Evaluating and Registering Cemeteries and Burial Places.

denotes definitions provided by Lynette Strangstad's A Graveyard Preservation Primer.

Cemetery Glossary—Page 2



Cast Iron

Cast iron -- Iron in a molten state that is poured into molds and allowed to cool. The patterns were often highly decorative. Cast iron is brittle, and when broken, exhibits a gray interior with a coarse texture. Fences, sometimes incorporating funerary motifs such as inverted torches, draped urns, weeping willow trees and reclining lambs, are the most common cast iron features in cemeteries. Grave markers and above-ground tombs were occasionally made of cast iron; two excellent examples of cast iron tombs are located at Magnolia Cemetery in Mobile.

Cemetery -- An area for burying the dead.

Cenotaph -- A monument, usually (but not always) of imposing scale, erected to commemorate one whose remains are elsewhere; literally "empty tomb."*

Chapel -- A place of worship or meditation in a cemetery or mausoleum, either a freestanding building or a room set apart for commemorative services.*

Churchyard -- A burying ground that immediately surrounds a church and is generally restricted to interments of members of its congregation or particular faith.

Cinerary urn -- A receptacle for cremation remains, or ashes, in the shape of a vase.*

Closure tablet -- An inscribed stone tablet placed over the sealed opening of an above-ground tomb to commemorate the deceased.

Coffin/Casket -- Today, these terms are often used interchangeably, however, they have distinctly different historical meanings. The coffin was typically hexagonal in form, taking the general dimensions of the individual to be interred. Usually made of wood, these are also known as "toe pinchers" because of their constricting shape toward the feet. While typical of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries (gradually replacing the use of only a shroud), the term did not fall out of fashion until the first decade of the twentieth century. In the mid-nineteenth century, however, the term "casket" was frequently used, likely as an effort to avoid the connotations of the coffin. As part of the change, the early caskets were anthropomorphic in form, taking a vague human shape, and often had a glass viewing plate over the face of the deceased. Gradually the shape became rectangular, replacing the earlier hexagonal forms.

Coffin hardware -- Includes the handles, breast plates, back plates, name plates, lid and corner ornaments, viewing glass plate and fixtures, and other devices used on and in coffins (also called coffin furniture).

Columbarium -- A vault or structure for storage of cinerary urns.*

Column -- A pillar, usually circular in plan.

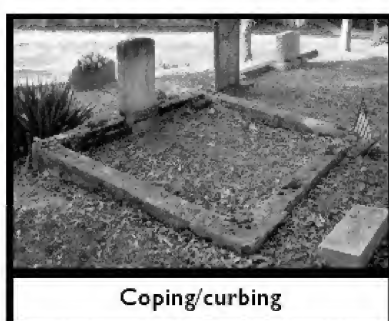
Cemetery Glossary—Page 3



Comb Grave

Comb grave -- A stone structure built over an in-ground grave that is triangular in shape. It most often consists of two rectangular sandstone slabs placed together to form a gabled roof over the grave.

Composite stone -- See *artificial stone*.



Coping/curbing

Coping -- The use of brick, marble, cement, granite or other materials to outline a single grave plot or group of graves. This term is sometimes used interchangeably with "curbing" (see below); technically, a coping is the top course of a masonry wall, usually sloped to facilitate water runoff.

Crematorium -- A furnace for incineration of the dead; also crematory.*



Cradle

Cradle -- A decorative curbing that surrounds a single grave. It is usually made of the same material as the headstone and incorporated as part of the overall marker design.

Curbing -- A very low wall or edging surrounding a grave or plot of graves, can be masonry or stone, and is sometimes decorative. This term is often used interchangeably with "coping" (see above).

Crypt -- An enclosure for a casket in a mausoleum or underground chamber, such as beneath a church.*

Cemetery Glossary—Page 4

Epitaph -- An inscription on a grave marker identifying and/or commemorating the deceased.*

Exedra -- A permanent open air masonry bench with high back, usually, patterned after the porches or alcoves of classical antiquity where philosophical discussions were held. In cemeteries often used as an element of landscape design and as a type of tomb monument.*

Face -- In stone masonry, the surface visible from setting. In gravestones, commonly the carved surface of tablet stones and slabs.##

False crypt -- See box tomb.

Family cemetery -- A small, private burial place for members of the immediate or extended family; typically found in rural areas, and often, but not always, near a residence; different from a family plot, which is an area reserved for family members within a larger cemetery.*



Fieldstone

Fieldstone -- A stone taken from the ground's surface. In cemeteries, it is often placed at the head and/or foot of a grave to mark its location. Fieldstones are found primarily in graveyards that were established before sources of gravestones were available in the area, or where lack of stone carving skills and/or limited economic circumstances made use of fieldstones necessary. Occasionally, fieldstones were lightly etched with some information about the deceased, such as initials or name, and perhaps a death date.



Flush marker

Flush marker -- A flat, rectangular grave marker set flush with the lawn or surface of the ground.*

Foot stone -- A small stone placed to mark the foot of a grave. It is usually made of the same type of stone, and in the same style, as the marker at the head of the grave. It is usually not inscribed or inscribed with only the initials of the deceased's name.

Gatehouse -- A building at the main entrance to a cemetery that is controlled by a gate; a shelter or habitation for the gate keeper.*

Cemetery Glossary—Page 5

Granite -- Geologically, igneous rock with crystals or grains of visible size and consisting mainly of quartz and the sodium or potassium feldspars. The commercial term includes gneiss and igneous rocks that are not granite in the strictest sense. # Granite became very popular for gravemarkers by the mid-twentieth century, although the stone was used earlier, particularly for large monuments and mausoleums.

Grave -- A place for burial.*



Grave Articles

Grave articles -- Items placed on a grave that have spiritual significance in the deceased's culture.

Grave marker -- A sign of a burial place, variously inscribed and decorated in commemoration of the dead.*



Grave Shelter

Grave Shelter -- A wood structure placed over an in-ground burial, usually with a gable roof and sides made of vertical pickets or boards. Some have boards with decorative "jig" work and a few are constructed with doors and windows to resemble small houses. Grave Shelters were common in some areas of the South and are generally associated with Native Americans and groups of Scotch-Irish ancestry.

Graveyard -- An area set aside for burial of the dead.*



Headstone

Headstone -- An upright stone marker with a base; usually inscribed with demographic information, epitaphs, or both; sometimes decorated with a carved motif.*

Cemetery Glossary—Page 6

Incised carving -- In gravestones, ornamentation made by cutting into the stone; engraving.##

Interment -- A burial; the act or ritual of committing the dead to a grave.*

Laminated stone -- Stone consisting of thin sheets; stone built up in layers, such as slate.##



Ledger Stones

Ledger stone-- A large (usually 3' x 6') rectangular grave marker of stone laid flat over a grave, or set on the top of box and table tombs. Ledgers often contain detailed information about the deceased. Most ledger stones in Alabama are of white marble, although sandstone examples have been identified.

Limestone -- Rock of sedimentary origin composed principally of calcite or dolomite or both. Commonly used in gravestones and tomb structures, in some cases considered to be marble.##

Lych gate -- A roofed gateway to a church graveyard under where the coffin was placed prior to burial (also spelled lich gate).

Marble -- Geologically, a metamorphic rock made up largely of calcite or dolomite. As used commercially, the term includes many dense limestones and some rock dolomites. Numerous minerals may be present in minor to significant amounts in marble, and their presence and distribution account for much of the distinctive appearance that many marbles possess. Marble was the predominant stone for gravestones in the nineteenth century.## In Alabama, local marble was available by 1830, when marble quarries were opened in Talladega County.



Mausoleum

Mausoleum -- A large building or structure housing a tomb or several tombs.

Memorial park -- A twentieth century cemetery cared for in perpetuity by a business or nonprofit corporation; generally characterized by open expanses of greensward with regulated or flush gravemarkers; the earlier manifestation, in the last half of the nineteenth century, was called a "lawn" cemetery.*

AHC Cemetery Pamphlet 3c

Cemetery Glossary—Page 7

Military cemetery -- A burial ground established for war casualties, veterans, and eligible dependents. Those established by the Federal government include national cemeteries, post cemeteries, soldiers' lots, Confederate and Union plots, and American cemeteries in foreign countries. Many States also have established cemeteries for veterans.*

Monument -- A structure or marker erected as a memorial.*

Mortuary -- A place for preparation of the dead prior to burial or cremation.*

NAGPRA -- Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, a federal law intended to protect Native American burial sites and to control the removal of human remains, funerary objects, and items of cultural patrimony still located in archaeological sites on federal and tribal lands. The law also requires federal agencies and museums receiving federal funds to inventory human remains and funerary objects in their collections and develop written summaries. They must also attempt to identify the likely cultural affiliation of these objects and notify presumptive Native American organizations.

National Cemetery -- One of 130 burial grounds established by the United States Congress since 1862 for interment of armed forces servicemen and women whose last service ended honorably. Presently, the Department of Veterans Affairs maintains 114, the National Park Service (Department of the Interior) administers 14, and the Department of the Army has responsibility for two.*



Obelisk -- A tall four-sided shaft of stone, usually tapered, popularized by romantic taste for classical imagery.*

Pet cemetery -- An area set aside for the burial of cherished animals.* In Alabama, an example of this type of cemetery is the Coon Dog Cemetery (est. 1937) in Franklin County.

Potter's field -- A place for the burial of indigent or unknown persons. The term derives from a Biblical reference, Matthew 27.7, where, with regard to Judas throwing down the silver to betray Jesus, is written, "And they [priests] took counsel, and bought with them [the pieces of silver] the potter's field, to bury strangers in."

Cemetery Glossary—Page 8



Pottery Markers

Pottery -- Grave markers made of clay that has been hardened by heat. In Alabama, pottery markers are generally of two types: earthenware, which is often unglazed and fired at a low temperature, and stoneware, which is glazed and fired at a high temperature.

Receiving tomb -- A vault where the dead may be held until a final burial place is prepared; also receiving vault.*

Relief carving -- Ornamentation projecting forward from a surface through shallow or, occasionally in gravestones, deep carving.#



Rock Cairn -- A mound of stones erected as a memorial or a marker.

Rostrum -- A permanent open air masonry stage used for memorial services in cemeteries of the modern period, patterned after the platform for public orators used in ancient Rome.*

“Rural” cemetery -- A burial place characterized by spacious landscaped grounds and romantic commemorative monuments established in a rural setting at the dawn of the Victorian era. So called for the movement inspired by the French model. The term is used with quotation marks to distinguish this distinctive landscaped type from other kinds of burying grounds occurring in the countryside.*

Sandstone -- Sedimentary rock composed of sand-sized grains naturally cemented by mineral material. In most sandstone used for building and gravestones, quartz grains predominate.# Sandstone was a relatively common material used for early gravestones in Alabama. A type called “potsville,” available in the Tuscaloosa area, was used for gravestones and also in construction of the state capital in the 1820s. “Potsville” is a soft and easily worked stone. Church Street Graveyard in Mobile has good examples of early sandstone markers.

Sarcophagus -- A stone coffin or monumental chamber for a casket, often inscribed or decorated with sculpture.*

Sepulcher -- A burial vault or crypt.*

Sexton -- Traditionally, an employee or officer of a church who is responsible for the care and upkeep of church property and sometimes for ringing bells and digging graves.*

Shelter house -- A pavilion or roofed structure, frequently open at the sides, containing seats or benches for the convenience of those seeking a place to rest; erected in rustic and classical styles to beautify a cemetery landscape.*

Slant marker -- A rectangular grave marker having straight sides and inscribed surface set at an acute angle for easier reading.*

Cemetery Glossary—Page 9

Slate -- A hard, brittle metamorphic rock consisting mainly of clay minerals and characterized by good. A popular gravestone material of the eighteenth century, particularly in coastal areas, many of the best-preserved examples of gravestone art are found in slate, an extremely stable stone.# Mobile's Church Street Graveyard has a small number of slate markers; some of these are deteriorating because of natural weathering and poor grounds maintenance practices.

Spall -- A chip or flake of stone. #

Statuary -- One or more statues.

Stucco -- A coating of various mortarlike mixes mixed with water and applied over the exterior of stone or brick structures to give a finished appearance and to prevent water from entering the masonry. It is sometimes scored to resemble stone block. The term "plaster" is sometimes substituted, particularly if the work is executed well.

Tabby -- A material comprised of oyster shell, sand, lime and water. Burning oyster shell in kilns fueled by wood fires made the lime for the mixture. Tabby was used primarily in coastal areas of Georgia, South Carolina and north Florida. The porous surface is covered with a coating of stucco to protect the exterior. In some cemeteries, tabby was used to construct walls around grave plots.



Table tomb

Table tomb (or Table stone) -- A type of grave monument in which a stone slab, usually at least two inches thick by about three feet wide by six feet long, is supported by six (or more) pillars or columns. The columns, or legs, are usually two to three feet high, in turn rest on a stone set on the ground. In most cases, an inscription is written on the slab top [ledger]; the stone columns are generally carved, sometimes ornately.#



Tablet stone

Tablet (or Tablet stone) -- A marker made of a single piece of stone (usually slate, sandstone or marble) approximately two to three inches thick, that is set vertically into the ground. It does not have a base. Markers of this type usually date from the eighteenth through the first decades of the nineteenth centuries.

Tomb -- A grave or other place of burial.

Tombstone -- An inscribed stone. This term is often used to describe any inscribed grave marker.

Tympanum -- In gravestones, the semicircular (or occasionally, triangular) decorated face at the top of a tablet stone.#

Upland South Cemetery -- A type of folk cemetery widely dispersed across the southern United States.

Characterized by hill top location, scraped ground, mounded graves, preferred species of vegetation carrying symbolic meaning, highly personalized forms of grave decoration, and associated cults of piety such as graveyard workday and Decoration Day.

A hand grenade, a space hopper and a greenhouse - just some of the things pulled out of Yorkshire's sewers

yorkshirepost.co.uk

04:39Thursday 19 November 2015

But none of them came close to matching the problems caused by wet wipes and fats and oils flushed and poured into drains across England and Wales, the Consumer Council for Water (CCW) said. It is urging householders to “keep your wipes out of the pipes” after water companies spent £50 million clearing more than 200,000 blockages caused by inappropriate items sent into sewers over the last 12 months.

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November 16, 2015



woodcut from Irako Mitsuaki.
Geka kinmō zui (Kyoto :
Ebisuya Ichiemon, 1809)

Woodcut from Irako Mitsuaki. *Geka kinmō zui* (Kyoto: Ebisuya Ichiemon, 1809)



original paper binding of Irako
Mitsuaki. *Geka kinmō zui* (Kyoto:
Ebisuya Ichiemon, 1809)

Original paper binding of Irako Mitsuaki. *Geka kinmō zui* (Kyoto: Ebisuya Ichiemon, 1809)

We have recently purchased this very rare Japanese book on surgery for our History of Medicine Collection, which is particularly comprehensive on the history of surgery from the Middle Ages throughout the Renaissance. Since our holdings on this subject mainly focus on Western medicine, this Japanese imprint is a long overdue addition, being an extraordinary witness of one of many cultural exchanges between Japan and Europe from the sixteenth century onward.

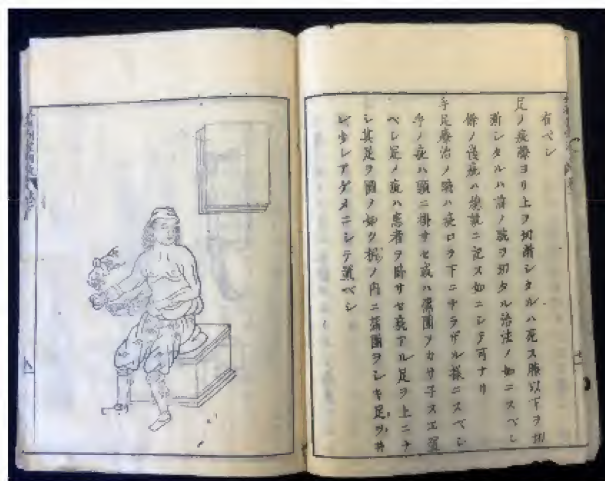


woodcut from Irako Mitsuaki.
Geka kinmō zui (Kyoto:
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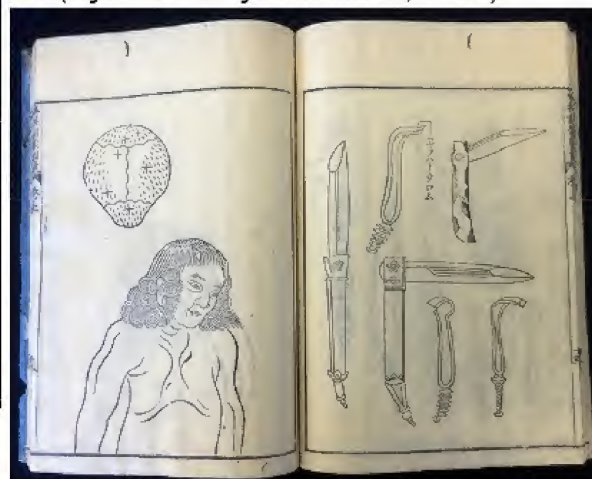
Originally published in 1764, our copy of *Geka kinmō zui* is not merely a reprint but a second edition that includes additional material. The treatise is divided into two volumes with a total of 48 full-page woodcut illustrations, mostly representing surgical operations performed on specific areas of the human body. A frequent woodcut in this book is the representation of a full human body pierced by a variety of weapons, thus demonstrating the wide range of injuries a surgeon might need to treat.

Essentially, the text of *Geka kinmō zui* is a translation of the Dutch work *De Chirurgie*, of which the Special Collections Library holds three early editions published in 1604, 1615, and 1636. In turn, *De Chirurgie* is a translation of Ambroise Paré's *Dix liures de la chirvrgie, avec le magasin des instrumena necessaires à icelle*, first published in 1564 and eventually re-published as part of Paré's complete *oeuvres* in 1575. Reasonably, the reader of this post might be now wondering why this Japanese translation is based on a Dutch text instead of using the original French. The brief explanation is that by the middle of the seventeenth century, the Dutch were the only Europeans living in Japan. The Portuguese and Spanish had been expelled, and the English had willingly departed. Just a small Dutch population remained in the artificial island of Deshima in Nagasaki harbor. While Dutch was almost exclusively used for commercial transactions, Dutch books started to be imported in large numbers, especially medical books for Japanese doctors interested in Western medicine. In 1771, Surgita Genpaku saw a copy of the Dutch edition of Johann Adam Kulmus's *Anatomisch Tabellen* (*Anatomical Tables*), using its illustrations to perform dissections. Impressed by the empirical accuracy of these illustrations, fairly unknown unknown in Chinese and Japanese books on the subject, Genpaku arranged the Japanese translation of Kulmus's work. In 1774, *Kaitai shinsko* (*New Book of Anatomy*) was published, officially endorsing future translations of Dutch medical books.



Woodcut from Irako Mitsuaki. *Geka kinmō zui* (Kyoto: Ebisuya Ichiemon, 1809)

Woodcut from Irako Mitsuaki. *Geka kinmō zui* (Kyoto: Ebisuya Ichiemon, 1809)

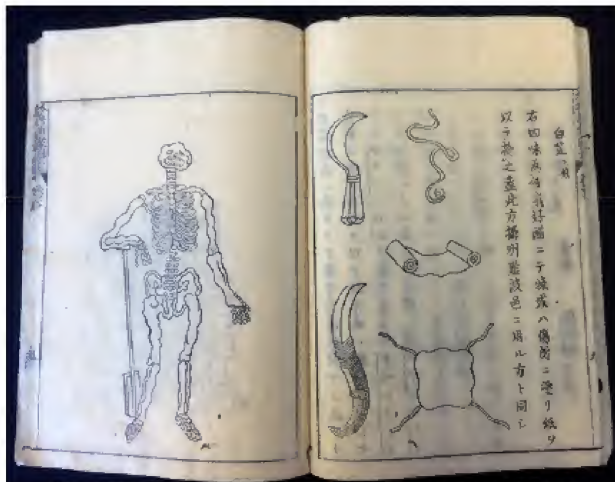


Woodcut from Irako Mitsuaki. *Geka kinmō zui* (Kyoto: Ebisuya Ichiemon, 1809)

Woodcut from Irako Mitsuaki. *Geka kinmō zui* (Kyoto: Ebisuya Ichiemon, 1809)

Woodcut from Irako Mitsuaki. *Geka kinmō zui* (Kyoto: Ebisuya Ichiemon, 1809)

A fascinating feature of this book is the fact that it was entirely printed by using woodblocks. This may seem odd, since the Japanese knew about the movable-type technique since the end of the sixteenth century. After the Jesuits introduced the first European press in Japan in 1590, movable-type and wood-block printing were in fact used interchangeably in Japan until the first half of the seventeenth century. While some books included both woodcuts and letterpress, as it was common in the Western tradition, others were entirely printed with woodblocks, like our featured title. However, by 1650, Japanese publishers abandoned the technique of movable-type and concentrated on woodblock printing exclusively. Why? There



Woodcut from Irako Mitsuaki. *Geka kinmō zui* (Kyoto: Ebisuya Ichiemon, 1809)

are several reasons. Firstly, it was extremely expensive to make single types replicating the vast quantity of logograms and *kana* (representations of syllabic sounds) in the Japanese language. Secondly, woodblocks could be stored for the re-printing of popular works in the future. And thirdly, by the first decades of the seventeenth century Japanese publishers tried to attract less-educated readers by including *kana* in the form of glosses clarifying the pronunciation of each logogram. But printers soon realized that it was hard to combine signs and glosses as individual types. Overall, movable-type printing did not re-appear in Japan until the mid-

nineteenth century.

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A Taniwha, or not. 1951.

Posted in: Forteana, old newspapers, sea monsters. Tagged: 1951, history, New Zealand, news, sea monster, Taniwha. 2 Comments

Leathery skin, with one large tusk protruding from its large head and a narrow tail. Not sure what this long alligator-like (but interestingly no mention of legs), creature is but it sounds interesting.

A Taniwha is a creature of Maori legend that inhabits deep, dark water, and this article notes that there has been much marine disturbance in the area that may have caused the arrival of the body on the beach.

Regardless of what it is, I would not want to encounter it if I was having an early morning swim at Waimarama beach!

STRANGE SEA CREATURE

NAPIER (NZ), January 10. (AAP-Reuter).—A strange sea creature, about 30 ft long, with a head about 3 ft across and a body tapering away to a narrow tail, is the main attraction for visitors to the beach at Waimarama, near Hastings.

The creature, which was dead when washed up, has not been identified.

Its appearance is not unlike that of a huge alligator. One large tusk protrudes from its head and its body is of a leather texture.

During the past few days there has been much marine disturbance at various points on the Waimarama beach and it is thought that this may have been responsible for the arrival of this "taniwha."

The holiday spirit can be immediately discounted, because the body now lies in the grounds of the Waimarama school pending identification.

2 comments on “A Taniwha, or not. 1951.”

Loes Modderman

on November 10, 2011 at 11:42 pm said:

This is remarkable, I just wrote a piece about Taniwha, belief in which frustrated public building in New Zealand repeatedly. And then your mail arrived!

metan

on November 11, 2011 at 12:04 am said:

Cue Twilight Zone music.... I love an unexpected coincidence!

Abandoned Souls of the Outagamie County Asylum for the Insane

mysteriousheartland.com

11/11/2015 by Scott Wittman



For decades, a small plot of land in Appleton, Wisconsin, overgrown with grass and weeds, lie virtually unnoticed by the growing community around it. Anonymously, it sat undetected by the thousands of cars that would unknowingly pass it every day along Highway 41, just mere yards away.

For almost 70 years, this tract of land was simply forgotten... except by those in the paranormal community of the area. Paranormal enthusiasts

were aware that under this abandoned field lie over 130 bodies buried by the former Outagamie County Asylum for the Insane, which used to stand close to this site.

This small field was once the cemetery for the Asylum, claiming the bodies of those who died there from 1891 until 1943. Although it appears that headstones were utilized at one time, since at least the mid-1970's this has been virtually a mass grave, with no visible burial plots; no names, no headstones.

In recent years the abandoned cemetery had become a popular place for paranormal enthusiasts and a regular stop for Ghost Tours and paranormal investigations. Rumors began to circulate about paranormal activity in the area; phantom screams, shadow persons, etc. According to asylum records, some of those buried in the cemetery were as young as 14 or 15 years old.

Laws regarding treatment of the mentally ill in the beginning of the 20th century were much different than today. Once one was an "inmate" in the Asylum, it was almost always for life. Many of those buried in the cemetery we would not think of today as being mentally ill at all. According to records, some of the reasons for admittance were for common physical ailments, being "impoverished," and even "drunkenness." Many times, children abandoned by their families would be sent to the asylum rather than an orphanage.

The cemetery undoubtedly held the bones of many restless souls.

Over the last two years, however, the future of the cemetery was changed forever. A small, private committee was formed to attempt to restore the grounds, giving those buried under the seemingly barren sod the dignity they deserve, even decades after their deaths. They were joined by a County committee to oversee the project, received permissions from state



Burial Row 2 as found by Ground Penetrating Radar

boards, as well as help from numerous local volunteers. Ground penetrating radar was utilized to find all of the graves, which numbered 133, the exact number in the asylum records. A large granite memorial was placed at the site, with a list of the names of all those who remain there.

For most, no information other than their name and date of death are known. However, slowly but surely researchers are beginning to tell their stories.

Such as the story of Peter Herbert Gauslin, who was married twice, had 11 children, though due to complications from a car accident suffered on July 4th, 1931, he was brought to the Asylum for the Insane and died in 1934. He was buried in the cemetery in Plot #106. His descendents unaware until recently.

Or the story of Euphrosine Eisert, who was born in Wisconsin in 1869, was brought to the asylum for unknown reasons as a widow, and died in 1941. She was buried in Plot #122, rather than being brought to Holy Trinity Cemetery in School Hill, WI, next to her husband. A cenotaph memorial stone with her name on it still lies at Holy Trinity today, next to her husband, without her presence.

In time, hopefully the stories of all of those buried at the Outagamie County Cemetery will be told. Possibly it will take the assistance of paranormal investigators to uncover them, giving voices back to those who were silenced many years ago.



Stone

A full listing of all names buried at the Outagamie County Cemetery can be found [here](#).

Scott Wittman is a professional Historical Landscape photographer, writer, researcher, and traveler. More of his work can be seen at www.scottwittmanvisual.com.



The Abarimon - Humanoids with Foot Backward

A race of humanoids uncivilized who lived on Mount Himalaya. The Abarimon were natives of a country with the same name , creatures that were characterized by feet back. Despite this disadvantage, the Abarimon were able to move faster than the other riders. They also had a great affinity with wildlife.

Man and Nature

The Abarimon lived with animals of the region and its savagery could not be captured. There are legends that invested feet of this race sandals that were to be used, and therefore could run at high speeds. The country of Abarimon was in the great valley of Monte Imaus , a place where the air was delighted and so if a person breathed long it would be impossible to breathe other air.

This fictional race could not leave the valley alive, this effect also protected the exact location of the valley. The sage Pliny described these people for the first time in his book Natural History (VII), according to Pliny , were physically very similar to humans, but had feet back.

Later, a similar story was told by Aulus Gellius in the text " Attic Nights ".

The Story of Pliny



In his account, the sage described the race of Nuli, also known as the Abarimon .

The traveler and scholar Megasthenes described the mountain Nulus, now known as Mount Himalaya, the text spoke of a race of humans who have their feet inverted from the ankles. The tactics of the Abarimon served to confuse their pursuers because their fingerprints were reversed and mask wearing behind their heads seemed that Abarimon were approaching. The feet of this ancient race were unusually large and had eight fingers each.

Megasthenes philosophized about the power that Abarimon have, because they are an intelligent breed have power over something, just as the human. Although his studies failed to reach a conclusion on this issue, the scholar died in doubt.

Ciguapa

The Ciguapa is located in the mythology of the Dominican Republic female demon, this criptido shares with Abarimon the quality of having the feet facing backwards.



Its appearance is that of a beautiful woman with very dark skin, in some versions with a bluish tint, very deep black eyes and moving through the forest without any clothes, just covering her body with a very long mane of black color.

You may also like: The possible existence of Congolese giant spider

It is very difficult to capture because when riding with inverted feet leave false trails when prosecuting trafficking. They are very fast and know a thousand hiding places and caves in which they can hide to avoid capture. On the rare occasions where according to legend the ciguapas have been captured have finished dying of shame to feel enclosed.

These demons attract men to the deep forest or inside their caves, where you can never leave. It is believed that kill their victims drowning undercurrents. Also attributed to ciguapas stealing children and babies.

The ciguapas are silent and unable to speak, but that does not preclude lure their victims. Besides its beauty, ciguapa is capable of emitting a similar song of partridges to lure the unwary who dare to follow up their caves howl.

According to other versions can mimic human tears. Both descriptions are reminiscent of the sirens, using their arts of conquest to end seafarers. That is why they are also known by the nickname of the sirens of the mountains.

With the help of a white dog, the Ciguapas can be trapped in full moon nights, although such is their punishment for their captivity, which eventually die.

The myth has also spread to a lesser extent to El Salvador, where it is thought to be the spirits of people who escaped to the mountains and ended up losing his life.

In some regions also spoken of Ciguapas male, although in the Dominican tradition usually appear as small dark-skinned women scampering naked through the woods.

Feet invested in Reality

Like most legends humanoids with inverted feet actually have a point. There are birth defects that can cause a person born with feet backward. As is the case of Wang Fang , a waitress of Chinese origin who was born with a cleft feet.

At first it was thought that this would prevent you go, but Wang has not only shown that he can walk and work as a waitress without hindrance. But it also ensures that even runs faster than most people you know.

A while Wang Fang became famous in rejecting a pension for their disability. According to



him she was no handicapped, could work like any other in the family business, a small restaurant. And its peculiarity did not make it useless or invalid to require a pension.

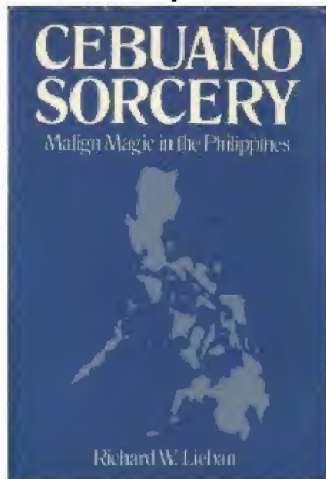


It is possible that in ancient times some similar to this occur Wang , that may have triggered the legends recounted Plinio . And in his stories the Abarimon were normal

humans with a unique feature, have your feet backward. The case of Chinese waitress shows that even conjectures that could run as fast or more than a normal human were not crazy.

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Posted on January 10, 2012 by nzumel



Cebuano Sorcery: Malign Magic in the Philippines by Richard W. Lieban (1967)

Photo: Amazon

I rediscovered this on my bookshelf yesterday. The author spent a year in Cebu City, and a year in a rural area of Negros island, recording local beliefs about sorcery, and observing folk medicine practices. The two are related, since folk healers often attribute their patients' maladies to curses, or other occult sources.

The chapter on *aswang* is interesting, but I've already written a post about that. The Cebuanos also believe in

another kind of witchcraft — a curse, really — that they call *buyag*. The one who curses the victim is called a *buyagan*.

It's possible to be a *buyagan* (or at least, to inflict a *buyag*) without being aware of it, because *buyag* are given in the form of compliments. Imagine that a stranger tells you that you have beautiful hair — and the next morning it starts falling out in clumps. Or another mother remarks how happy and healthy your baby is, and soon afterwards the child gets sick and fussy.

A *buyagan* can pass out his or her curses at will, but any compliment can turn into a *buyag*, if a spirit overhears the compliment, and decides to "add to" it. If you've just gotten a compliment, you can counteract the potential curse by saying "*puera buyag*" (go away, buyag), or just "*buyag*." That's a more colorful response than the usual "Thank you."

I couldn't find much about *buyag* on the web. This page, from a Philippine Alternative Medicine site, links *buyag* to flatulence, which is funny. A few other people describe their version of the superstition, [here](#), and [here](#).

The belief in *buyag* implies a society that is wary both of giving and receiving compliments. Or, as somebody else put it: a society that values humility. The underlying premise seems to be that flattery is a mask for envy — which it probably often is. And since envy is a form of ill-wishing, it might turn your good fortune into a bad situation.

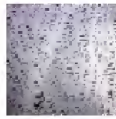
I've noticed that I'm especially uncomfortable when someone compliments me in the presence of other people, unless they are included in the compliment, too. The possibility of attracting other people's envy is definitely part of my discomfort.

Still, it would be dreary to feel that no one noticed your good work, wouldn't it?

This entry was posted in Books, Folklore, Superstition and tagged Browsing My Bookshelf,

buyag, Cebu, curses, folklore, Philippines, superstitions, witchcraft. Bookmark the permalink.

4 thoughts on “Accidental Witchcraft”



1. themisanthropologist says:
on January 10, 2012 at 8:09 pm

Wow, this sounds very interesting!



• nzumel says:
on January 11, 2012 at 12:05 am

The book is very interesting, though obviously the field studies are quite old. I'll probably post something about the folk healers one of these days.



2. themisanthropologist says:
on January 11, 2012 at 6:48 am

Where did you buy that book?



• nzumel says:
on January 11, 2012 at 8:32 am

It's got my sister's name on the inside, so I think I “liberated” it from her :)

It's old — mine is the 1977 first paperback printing, published by University of California Press. I don't know if it's in print anymore.

Amazon claims to have 6 copies, used, from affiliate sellers:
<http://www.amazon.com/Cebuano-Sorcery-Malign-Magic-Philippines/dp/0520034201>

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Airborne dynamite, what could go wrong?

Airborne dynamite, what could go wrong? Posted by metan on August 7, 2013 Posted in: Bushwa , movie , old newspapers . Tagged: 1884 , Australia , cloud seeding , dynamite , explosive , history , weather . 24 Comments What a great idea Mr. E.S. Haines had back in 1884. When rain is needed, send up a balloon, disperse a chemical into the air and, voila! rain will fall. These days we call that cloud seeding, not something I know too much about, but a quick bit of research confirmed something I did know. Not one of the chemicals used currently to make rain is called dynamite. Mr. Haines idea was; "to construct a captive balloon capable of carrying 800 cubic feet of hydrogen gas, and to it will be suspended a cask containing 50lb of dynamite. When rain is much needed, the balloon will be sent on a trip to the clouds, and by means of electricity the dynamite will be exploded, with the result, as the inventor anticipates, that copious showers of rain will fall on the land beneath. The explosion will open a valve which will cause the gas to leave the balloon, and the aerial visitor will then slowly return to earth . " Uh huh. Australia is a very dry place after all, we need as much rain as we can get and if he thinks that his invention could supply it where needed well, good luck to him. Just don't try it over my house. I have to say that the thought of seeing this invention set into motion is utterly wonderful to me. No, I don't think rain will fall, well, not the kind of crop saving rain Mr. Haines is expecting anyway. Along with the stunned and slightly singed birds who were unfortunate enough to be passing by I imagine there will be tiny bits of flaming paper wrapper, marked ACME DYNAMITE of course, floating back to earth. Naturally I expect there will be bits of balloon returning to earth too, the balloon will of course not be 'slowly returning to earth' as expected, it was full of highly flammable hydrogen gas. In my mind's eye there will either be smoking pieces broadcast across the fields it was supposed to be watering. I wonder what 'means of electricity' will be used to detonate this contraption? I think 1884 was a little early for safe remote detonation. All I can see in my mind's eye is a person standing directly under the balloon with a long, long, wire and a big red button. How fast do you think the wire will return to earth after the boom? I hope the button pusher is wearing a sturdy helmet.... Fortunately I found this appropriate clip on youtube. Now imagine the 800 cubic feet of hydrogen gas suspended above 50lb (22kg+) of dynamite like a tiny, tiny Hindenberg. ;) Related Not so wonderful for the goat. 1907. In "Critters" Hoop snake attack. 1884. In "Critters" Exploding Chickens. 1950. In "Critters" Posts navigation ← And the campaign begins.... A Highway to Hell. Spring is here.... well, kind of. →

wordpress.com

Buried words and Bushwa.

Me, still talking...

- Addicted to history.
- Blogosphere.
- Feedback and Requests.
- Stuff About Me

24 comments on "Airborne dynamite, what could go wrong?"

1. Jennifer on August 7, 2013 at 1:54 pm said:

Oops. Of course someone thinks that would be a clever thing to do.

• metan on August 7, 2013 at 7:14 pm said:

I would love to have seen the maiden flight! I'm not the one holding the button though..... The Man just put a dampener on my big red button thoughts though, suggesting it might have been launched with a slow burning fuse. Logical, but nowhere near as exciting....

2. davidprosser on August 7, 2013 at 3:08 pm said:

Maybe it would be safer to get some Native Americans over to do a Rain Dance? xxx
Huge Hugs xxx

- metan on August 7, 2013 at 7:10 pm said:

It would probably be more effective!

3. Frivolous Monsters on August 7, 2013 at 8:36 pm said:

It is clever as burying hydrogen in oxygen gives you water! So you're not relying on moisture in the atmosphere as much as cloud seeding today!

- metan on August 7, 2013 at 9:44 pm said:

I believe that the controlled burning of the hydrogen could have the desired effect, I just can't imagine the whole thing going as smoothly as expected! All I can imagine is the BOOM shortly before a melted balloon splats to the ground.....

In my (admittedly uneducated) searches on cloud seeding the only mention of hydrogen connected with it was the hydrogen balloons used to lift the chemicals (silver iodide, dry ice) into the air. Do you know the reason hydrogen isn't mentioned for this purpose? I can guess why fifty pounds of dynamite isn't part of the current recipe though... :)

- Frivolous Monsters on August 7, 2013 at 9:54 pm said:

It's a lot of effort to extract hydrogen just to burn it. The silver salts (as used in an episode of Quantum Leap – if you got that out there?) are more encouraging the moisture in the atmosphere to precipitate, I guess. Since the Hindenburg I think hydrogen in air ships has been frowned on!

- metan on August 7, 2013 at 10:42 pm said:

I think after the images of the Hindenburg going down it wouldn't matter if hydrogen was the safest substance on earth, people would just not go there!

4. acflory on August 7, 2013 at 9:47 pm said:

Imao – oh dear. Just watched the video clip, and I suspect the inventor imagined he'd be up there with the balloon and the dynamite, setting it off and drifting down to earth. Clearly some inventive people don't think things through all that much. ;)

- Frivolous Monsters on August 7, 2013 at 9:56 pm said:

I once saw in a lecture theatre a balloon full of oxygen that had a small amount of ether injected into it before – as it floated near the ceiling – a flame was put to it

that led to a big fireball. Lots of fun. But not for kids to do at home.
FM

- acflory on August 7, 2013 at 10:15 pm said:

-grin- no, I could imagine a definite downside to that experiment.

- metan on August 7, 2013 at 10:48 pm said:

Explosions are definitely the way to get students to pay attention. When we went to the open night at the local High School to encourage Number 1 son to get excited about going next year the night was made perfect by the science teacher setting a fireball loose in the kids hands one at a time. Big flame, no pain, lots of happy kids. :)

- anneb54 on August 10, 2013 at 9:42 am said:

A friend of mine said her son was attracted to the local high school because they promised the dissection of cow eyeballs!!

- metan on August 10, 2013 at 11:11 am said:

That would definitely win over a few. Number 2 can't wait for his turn to go as they do one elective class each week, the whole school being mixed up and it not being curriculum subjects. One teacher was teaching all about hovercraft, all Number 2's dreams come true. :D I just hope that teacher is still doing it when he gets there!

5. Candy Korman on August 8, 2013 at 9:58 pm said:

That's why they warn against — playing with fire.

- metan on August 8, 2013 at 10:54 pm said:

It's all fun and games until someone gets ummmm.... exploded. :D

6. Cotton Boll Conspiracy on August 8, 2013 at 10:43 pm said:

You're probably right that dynamite isn't the way to go in terms of inducing rain, but I can't think of a more exciting way to try to incite a bit of precipitation. TNT makes everything better, or at least more interesting, right?

- metan on August 8, 2013 at 10:57 pm said:

There is no reason not to try this yourself as far as I'm concerned. Well, there is that whole potential death thing but you know, get someone else to push the big red button and make sure you have a good vantage point and a bucket of water handy.... ;)

- Cotton Boll Conspiracy on August 8, 2013 at 11:03 pm said:

That's right; if you're going to be an idiot, make sure someone's getting it on video, so the rest of us can have a laugh at your misfortune.

- metan on August 8, 2013 at 11:07 pm said:

Absolutely, and if possible stand behind someone bigger than yourself if you aren't completely sure you are out of the blast zone.... ;)

7. EllaDee on August 10, 2013 at 8:12 am said:

I wonder if Mr Haines was the inspiration for Wile. E. Coyote...

- metan on August 10, 2013 at 11:29 am said:

That's all I could think of when I found this! That's why it had to ACME dynamite.
:D

8. anneb54 on August 10, 2013 at 9:44 am said:

This is pure gold, Metan! Idiotic inventions, and idiots on YouTube! I was thinking along the same lines as EllaDee. It has such a cartoon feel about it.

- metan on August 10, 2013 at 11:32 am said:

Oh, if only they'd had YouTube back then..... ;)

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A terrible monster under a peaceful appearance

Albert Fish , also known as "The vampire of Brooklyn "or" gray man "is remembered as one of the worst mass murderers in history.

His biggest hobby, dismembering and eating children.

Fish was born in Washington on May 19, 1870 with the name of Hamilton , although shortly after Albert renamed him as a brother deceased to avoid the teasing of children who called him ' Ham and Eggs '(ham and eggs).



After the death of his father, and even his mother could take care of him, he was sent to an orphanage where he received constant beatings and abuse , including sexual abuse, and his mind was forged a fondness for punishment, sports inflicting pain to others and himself with niceties such as rubbing naked with roses with thorns, ignite cotton balls inserted into his anus and especially needles are inserted around the genitals, a

subsequent radiograph showed a total of 29 needles his testicles (many rusty).



Radiograph of the pelvis of Fish after his death, where needles are

At age 12 he began homosexual relations and show taste for coprofagia , urofagia , ie, eating excrement, and visit the public toilets to masturbate. At this stage begins his collection of clippings about serial murderers and cannibals especially is with those who feel identified.

A few years later prostitute in Washington where rapes a child.

Fish shortly before his death

In 1890, Fish moved to New York where he began systematically raping young boys, mostly from poor class, a crime he continued to commit even after their arranged marriage in 1898



(he married a woman nine years his junior and had six children). Shortly after he was arrested for embezzlement and sentenced to prison, going to the State Prison of Sing Sing in 1903, where he had sex with different men.



In 1898 he began working as a house painter throughout America, but dropped his hobby, reaching raping more than 100 children, most under 6 years. In addition, he frequented brothels in paying for being whipped.

Between 1910 and 1924 he attempted to murder several people, mostly children or mentally handicapped, failed to consummate none of these

crimes.

In January 1917, his wife left him. Fish began hearing voices, he said himself that he followed the instructions of John the apostle.



Fish House where he took his victims

In July 1924 his first attempt at abduction of a girl of 8 years, but when the girl was about to leave with him, the mother surprised and Fish fled.

But come 1928 and Fish, with 58 years, killed the first girl Grace Budd, in a case that was widely documented and investigated by police. Another man was arrested by mistake.



The girl Grace Budd

Seven years later, in November 1934, an anonymous letter was sent to the parents of the girl which led police to Albert Fish. The mother, not knowing how to read, gave it to his son to read it. Its content was terrible:

"Dear Ms. Budd. In 1894 a friend of mine was sent as assistant platform in the steamer Tacoma, Captain John Davis. On arriving there he and two others went ashore and got drunk. When they returned the boat had gone. At that time there was famine in China. The meat of any kind cost of \$ 1-3 per pound. So big was the suffering among the poor that all children under 12 were sold as food

in order to keep the others free to starve. A boy or girl of fourteen children were not safe on the

streets. You could walk into any store and ask for cutting steak or beef stew.

Part of the naked body of a boy or girl would be taken and what you would be cut off from him. The back of a boy or girl which is the sweetest part of the body was sold as veal cutlet at a very high price. John stood there for a long time acquiring a taste for human flesh. On his return to NY he stole two boys July 1 and November 1 years old. He took home the stripped and stripped and tied to a closet. Then burned everything they carried. Several times every day and every night whipped, tortured them to make their meat good and tender. First he killed the boy of 11 years old because he had the fattest ass and of course the most meat on it. Every part of his body was cooked and eaten except the head, bones and intestines. It was roasted in the oven (all of his ass), boiled, broiled, fried and stewed. The small boy was next, was in the same way. At that time, I was living at 409 E 100 close to the right. How good was human flesh, I decided to try it on me often said.

On Sunday June 3, 1928, I visited him at 406 W 15th St. Brought you put -Strawberries cheese. Lunch, Grace sat on my lap and kissed me. I decided to eat it. Under the pretext of carrying a party. You said yes, she could go. I took her to an empty Westchester I had already chosen home. When we arrived, I told him to stay outside. She picked flowers, I went upstairs and remove my clothes. I knew I should not have blood on them. When all was ready I went to the window and called her. Then I hid in a closet until she was in the room. When she saw me completely naked she began to mourn and try to run downstairs. I caught it and he said he would tell his mother. The undressed. She kicked and scratched me. The strangled and then cut into small pieces to take the meat to my rooms. The cooked and ate. Sweet and tender How was your roast in the oven bottom. It took me nine days to eat her entire body. I did not rape her as he wished. He died a virgin . "

Nobody could believe that the letter was real, it was the work of a sadist who wanted to disturb Mr. Budd, however the King detective realized that some details of the letter coincided with the kidnapping of little Grace Budd plus the letter coincided with the recovered message was 6 years ago. The envelope of the letter provided a small but crucial clue. He printed a small hexagonal symbol and stands for an association Charities.



Budd family before the murder of Grace

The inspector William King , Fish tracked until he got to stop and prevented from assaulting him with a knife.

Detective William King with his arrest

His trial began in March 1935, and Fish alleged madness and that God commanded him to kill and rape children, psychiatric reports suggested that he had hobbies like pedophilia and masochism , but not his madness was certified and the judge ordered his execution by electric chair .



At trial he confessed to other murders as "an irresistible desire to eat raw meat moonlit night, and dance naked under the same".

In his terrible statement, also featured in detail c omo a child of only four years he whipped until his blood ran down her legs, cut off ears, nose and eyes, he gutted and took his blood to drink it , he dismembered and a stew with tenderest part was prepared.

When the lawyer asked the exact number of victims responded with a smile: "At least 100".



Police search for remains of victims of cannibal

After learning his ruling stated: "I am not insane, just eccentric. Sometimes even I understand me. "

"What a joy to die in the electric chair. It will be the ultimate thrill, the only thing I have not yet experienced " .



Fish before execution

On January 16, 1936 he sat in the chair and his last words were: "I do not know yet why I'm here." In the first shock, there was a short circuit because his pubis had nailed over 20 pins, and had to apply a second discharge much more powerful to destroy him.

executed

L to chair " old sparky " , where he was

One could accuse him of 15 crimes, although he said he had made more than 100, but Inspector William King always believed that between murder and rape, "Vampire in Brooklyn" was on their blacklist is about 400. Fish He took to his grave the actual number.



Shortly after his death, continued attributing murders, all minors.

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Allegheny County's old ice skates no longer 6 feet under

2015-11-19 23:00:00

triblive.com

Allegheny County's old ice skates no longer 6 feet under



County crews have dug up more than 400 pairs of ice skates that were buried in South Park. Officials said staff members buried old skates in the park for decades because they thought was the safest way to dispose of them.

By Elizabeth Behrman

Thursday, Nov. 19, 2015,
11:00 p.m.

Updated 17 hours ago



Allegheny County crews have relocated hundreds of leather and metal corpses from their longtime burial ground at South Park to a new resting place in a landfill.

Officials ordered the exhumation of more than 400 pairs of ice skates this week after they discovered that park employees had for decades been burying them

in a mass grave near the maintenance equipment storage area.

"It doesn't make any sense," said Allegheny County parks director Andrew Baechle. "There's no reason to bury ice skates in the park, and we will not do it again."

He came across the error several days ago, after he told his staff to clear out old, unusable skates the county formerly rented out to guests at South Park's ice skating rink. It's a process the parks department goes through every few years. But instead of throwing them in the garbage, county employees started to bury them, Baechle said.

They told him that was how they had always done it.

A "misguided" foreman — who has since retired, Baechle said — apparently decided in the 1980s that burying old skates was the safest way to dispose of them.

"It's just really silly to me," Baechle said. "I don't know why we just didn't throw them in the

Dumpster.”

Officials aren't concerned that the skates — buried in some cases for more than 20 years — will have any lasting environmental impact on the park, he said. No one within the department is in trouble.

“We found out about it and said that will never happen again,” Baechle said.

The county will continue to rent skates until it's no longer safe to use them, he said. And then they will be thrown away.

By that point, the skates are too worn down to be donated, Baechle said, and it would cost more to detach the blade from the boot than what the county could earn back by recycling them.

But that's what the staff at the RMU Island Sports Center does with its old skates.

The rental skates at the sports complex on Neville Island are made of plastic, so they are a bit more durable than traditional leather skates, executive director Dave Hanson said. His staff doesn't have to throw many away.

If they are damaged beyond repair, the center tries to recycle them, he said. Otherwise, old skates are donated.

They never bury them.

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Saturday, October 17, 2015

An Ancient Mystery Solved.

Little Murders

(From *New York Tribune*, November 29, 1883)

AN ANCIENT MYSTERY SOLVED.
THE PERPETRATOR OF ONE MURDER, WHICH LED TO FOUR OTHERS, HAS JUST BEEN CLEARED UP. MOORE WOODMANSEE, A WEALTHY MERCHANT OF MEDORA, NINETEEN MILES FROM HERE, CAME TO SEYMOUR, IND., NOV. 28.—An old murder mystery, resulting in four other tragedies, has just been cleared up. Moore Woodmansee, a wealthy merchant of Medora, thirteen miles from here, came to Seymour, Tuesday 5, 1883, on his way to Cincinnati. He had \$2,000 with which to purchase goods. He was missed from the room at the Roder House, not the cause of his disappearance was a mystery until October, when his body was found in White River, with the head cut off. Gordon Kinney, an employee of the hotel, was suspected of the crime. When the excitement caused by the finding of the body was at its height, an unknown man called Kinney from his door one night, and as the latter opened the door he was shot and instantly killed.

In 1872 Reuben Wheeler was mortally wounded. When told he had to die, Wheeler made a confession, saying that on the night of Woodmansee's murder two men had taken from the Roder stable the horse and spring-wagon. In the morning they returned. The bottom of the wagon was covered with blood. It was afterward taken out and new boards substituted. Roder was arrested for the murder, but acquitted; and again the affair was a dark mystery.

Every time during the many years that new evidence or news concerning the Woodmansee murder was reported, it was followed by a meeting of A. W. Flynn and "Sam" Long, gamblers and notorious characters. Suspicion began to point strongly toward them. Flynn threatened to shoot one Emery who had talked about him but Emery shot first and instantly killed Flynn. "Sam" Long, the partner, disappeared; and Alden E. Rodman, a suspected accomplice, was one night taken by an unknown mob and hanged.

Within the last few days Eliza Kemp has arrived at Medora. She says that she occupied the room at the hotel adjoining Woodmansee's the night of the murder. "I was suddenly awakened," she says, "by a noise in room 7. In a second I was fully awake, and realized that someone in the next room was begging for life. I heard 'Sam, kill the -----'; then a blow, followed by a heavy fall, and a moan or two. Then someone said, 'He is dead, --- him.' They

An Ancient Mystery Solved.

The Perpetrator of One Murder, Which Led to Four Others, Discovered.

Seymour, Ind., Nov. 28. — An old murder mystery, resulting in four other tragedies, has just been cleared up. Moore Woodmansee, a wealthy merchant of Medora, nineteen miles from here, came to Seymour, January 3, 1866, on his way to Cincinnati. He had \$2,000 with which to purchase goods. He was missed from his room at the Roder House, and the cause of his disappearance was a mystery until October, when his body was found in White River, with the head cut off. Gordon Kinney, an employee of the hotel, was suspected of the crime. When the excitement caused by the finding of the body was at its highest, an unknown man called Kinney from his door one night; as the latter opened the door he was shot and instantly killed.

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then agreed to take his body, cut his head off and throw the trunk in the river. I left Seymour early in the morning, and have never told what I heard. I am going to Kansas in a few days, or would not now tell what I do; because my life has been threatened time and time again by anonymous letters and in other ways."

Five of the six supposed to have been connected with this murder have been killed; and "Sam" Long, the only one remaining, left in 1866, and has never been seen or heard of.

"An Ancient Mystery Solved.." *New York Tribune* 29 Nov 1883.

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AN ANCIENT MYSTERY SOLVED.

THE PERPETRATOR OF ONE MURDER, WHICH LED
TO FOUR OTHERS, DISCOVERED.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

SEYMOUR, Ind., Nov. 28.—An old murder mystery, resulting in four other tragedies, has just been cleared up. Moore Woodmansee, a wealthy merchant of Modern, nineteen miles from here, came to Seymour, January 3, 1866, on his way to Cincinnati. He had \$2,000 with which to purchase goods. He was missed from his room at the Roder House, and the cause of his disappearance was a mystery until October, when his body was found in White River, with the head cut off. Gordon Kinsey, an employe of the hotel, was suspected of the crime. When the excitement caused by the finding of the body was at its highest, an unknown man called Kinsey from his door one night; and as the latter opened the door he was shot and instantly killed.

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Anne Frank's diary now has a co-author

Michael Harthorne, Newser

khou.com



AFP 539351072 E LIT NLD -

The copyright on *The Diary of Anne Frank*—set to expire Jan. 1 in most of Europe—has been extended by at least 35 years after the Swiss foundation that holds the copyright claimed Anne's diary actually had a co-author: her father, Otto Frank. (Photo: AFP/Getty Images)

The copyright on *The Diary of Anne Frank* — set to expire Jan. 1 in most of Europe — has been extended by at least 35 years after the Swiss foundation that holds the copyright claimed Anne's diary actually had a co-author: her father, Otto Frank, the *New York Times* reports.

Frank has long been acknowledged as an editor and compiler on *The Diary of Anne Frank*, but by acknowledging him as an author, Anne Frank Fonds is able to extend its copyright on the work until the end of 2050.

In most of Europe, copyrights expire 70 years after the author's death. Anne died 70 years ago, but her father didn't pass away until 1980.

Anyone in Europe wanting to publish the book will now need to continue asking the foundation for permission and paying it royalties.

The change isn't sitting well with many, the *Times* reports. One lawyer says it implies the foundation has been lying all these years about Anne writing the diary on her own and that it "should think very carefully about the consequences."

Author Cory Doctorow writing for BoingBoing says giving copyright protection to editors undermines authors and calls the foundation's claims that Otto co-authored the diary "spurious." The foundation—which donates proceeds from sales of *The Diary of Anne Frank* to charities—says it's not about the money, according to the *Times*. Rather they say they want to protect Anne's legacy.

That's not a good enough reason, Doctorow argues. "Virtually every historical person, from St. Francis to Shakespeare, is in the public domain. The martyrs of every purge and pogrom, the heroes of every war—all in the public domain."

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TIME OF DEATH - Antique Rotating Eyeball Skull Clocks by Oswald - HAUNTED HOROLOGY #3

blogspot.com



7:40

I recently featured the antique rotating eyeball clock genre (here), but since I can't seem to stop featuring death related timepieces, here are a few more of the very rare skull versions. These eight day novelty clocks were built by Oswald of Germany between 1926 and 1944. These models are quite hard to find and generally cost a few thousand dollars.

10:20



The dials are represented as the eyes separating the hours on the left and minutes to the right. Most of their collection feature cross-eyed genies, monkeys, gnomes, owls, and dogs (LOTS of dogs).

Patent information here-->[Link](#)



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The Sherlock Holmes author believed the illusionist had the ability to "dematerialize" his body



Shortread
November 20,
2015 Julia
Mason 0

Are you a hardcore Sherlock Holmes fan? You've probably heard about Arthur Conan Doyle's obsession with

Spiritualism. The Sherlock Holmes author devoted his life (and bank account) to communicating with the dead after his eldest son, known as Kingsley, succumbed to Spanish Influenza in 1918. Here's a piece of Doyle trivia you probably don't know: He was best friends with Harry Houdini and was convinced he had magical powers.



via Montreal Gazette

The Scottish author and the world-famous illusionist were an improbable pair. The Hungarian-born magician became interested in Spiritualism after his mother passed away in 1913. Desperate to speak to her from beyond the grave, Houdini tried hanging with the "I see dead people" crowd. He knew way too much about trickery to be easily convinced. In 1924, Houdini published a scathing exposé, *A Magician Among the Spirits*. The book revealed the secrets behind floating handkerchiefs, "spirit

hands," and levitating furniture. This didn't make him very popular with Doyle's set.

How did the world's most famous Spiritualist become besties with its greatest critic? When Houdini toured England in 1920, Doyle decided to catch his show. Strangely enough, the two got along famously. The Scottish author initially thought that Houdini's campaign was a good thing, reasoning that it would allow the mediums with true ability to thrive. Doyle had another important reason for liking Houdini—he *thought he had magical powers*. It's worth mentioning

that Doyle wasn't alone in this belief. Sarah Bernhardt reportedly asked Houdini to conjure her a new leg after she had one amputated following a stage accident.



Houdini and the Doyles in Atlantic City in 1922 (image via freeread)

Doyle and Houdini's relationship soured in 1922 during an ill-fated trip to Atlantic City. Desperate to convince Houdini that Spiritualism was real, the author forced him to attend one last séance. Here's the awkward part: the medium was Doyle's wife. The session didn't go very well. Mrs. Doyle enthusiastically wrote out a fifteen page missive from Houdini's mom. The only issue? The entire message was in English (his mother didn't speak a word) and it began with a sign of the cross (Houdini was Jewish). Their friendship never recovered.



via movie poster

Doyle continued to believe in Houdini's mystical abilities for the rest of his life. In 1927, the author published a two-part series in *The Strand* magazine titled "Houdini the Enigma." Ever wonder how Houdini pulled off all of those miraculous jail-cell escapes? Doyle had an interesting explanation: he was able to dematerialize his body. Although he allowed that some of Houdini's tricks were illusions, he argued they were just a smoke-screen to hide his true powers. The book's conclusion left little room for interpretation. "I contend," he wrote, "that Houdini's performance was on an utterly different plane, and that it is an outrage against common sense to think otherwise."

Feature image via the Arthur Conan Doyle Literary Estate + AllPosters.com

Julia Mason

Saturday, May 23, 2015

Avenging Her Honor.

Little Murders



Stephen L. Pettus stepped off the Fulton ferry boat from Brooklyn, the morning of November 22, 1889 and was walking up Fulton Street when he was accosted by a nervously distraught woman. The two had angry words, then he brushed her away and continued walking. Without hesitation, the woman raised a revolver and fired five shots into Pettus's back, killing him instantly. She was standing near the body when a police officer arrived.

"Did you do that?" he asked her.

"Yes," she replied, "he had ruined me and dishonored my family."



Stephen Pettus had been a successful tobacco and cotton broker, originally from Tennessee but transplanted to Brooklyn. He served as secretary and treasurer of the Union Elevated Railroad of Brooklyn, and was a trustee of the Brooklyn Bridge.

The woman was Mrs. Hannah Martin Southworth, also from a wealthy southern family who had moved to Brooklyn from Kentucky. Hannah Martin had married Fred Southworth 1876 and lived with him in Geneva, New York, but after only three years of marriage, Fred Southworth died. Hannah returned to Kentucky for a time but by 1885 she was back in Brooklyn.

A friend of hers, Mrs. Rosa Lloyd, introduced Hannah to Stephen Pettus at a New York theatre. Mrs. Lloyd took her leave, but because of his southern background, Hannah had no qualms about staying at the theatre with Stephen. According to Hannah, her trust had been misplaced. After the show Stephen took her to the house of an alleged friend and gave her a glass of drugged champagne. He then had his way with her while she was unconscious.



MRS. SOUTHWORTH.

Hannah claimed that she had become pregnant after this encounter and confronted Stephen. His solution was to pay \$100 to a Dr. M. F. Flowers to give Hannah medicine to end the pregnancy. She took the medicine and went to the Vanderbilt Hotel in Syracuse, New York. There her baby was born dead, and Hannah spent fourteen days alone in the hotel room. Finally Pettus arrived, paid the hotel bill under an assumed name, and took Hannah back to Brooklyn.

The friends of Stephen Pettus told a different story. They acknowledged that he was a man of easy virtue who frequently cheated on his wife, but said that Hannah was a willing partner who knew that Stephen was married. She killed him, they said, in a fit of pique because he had grown weary of her companionship.

For years after, Hannah badgered Pettus pleading with him to restore her honor but he just laughed at her. She wanted a public acknowledgement that he had ruined her and in February 1889 she went to court and sought \$75,000 in damages, but learned that she could not sue because the statute of limitation had run out. She then began a suit against him for slander and defamation of character. When that failed she decided to kill him.

For the murder case Hannah Southworth was represented by the law firm of Howe and Hummel, the most successful criminal lawyers in New York. The plea would be insanity; her mind had been shattered by the pregnancy and her traumatic experience in Syracuse. They also counted on the jury's sympathy for a woman defending her honor. "This woman will walk from that court on my arm as free as the winds of heaven, for the verdict of a New York jury will be that ruiners of innocent women shall die like dogs at the hands of their victims." Said Attorney Howe at the inquest.

But the trial would never take place. Hannah Southworth was held in the New York City prison, The Tombs, awaiting her court date. Already in ill health, Hannah succumbed to cold and dank conditions in The Tombs and came down with bronchitis and pneumonia. In early January 1890, it became apparent to the prison doctors that Hannah was dying. On January 7, surrounded by friends and relatives, she slipped away. Very weakly Hannah recited the child's prayer

Now I lay me down to sleep,
I pray the Lord my soul to keep,
And if I die before I wake,
I pray the Lord my soul to take

She then became unconscious and lay in a stupor until she died. The cause of death was "gradual heart failure resulting from anemia and general debility, with bronchitis and prostatic pneumonia as contributing causes." Her body was taken back to Kentucky for burial.

Sources:

"Insane." *Evening News* 23 Nov 1889.

"Just like A Child." *Clarion Ledger* 16 Jan 1890.

"Killed by a Woman." *The National Police Gazette* 7 Dec 1889.

"Mrs. Southworth." *Philadelphia Inquirer* 27 Nov 1889.

"Still Glad She Killed He Betrayer." *New York Herald* 24 Nov 1889.

"The Murder Of Stephen Pettus." *Springfield Republican* 27 Nov 1889.

"Twas Right, Her Mother Says." *New York Herald* 26 Nov 1889.

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Awesome Twosome: Twin Grooms Marry Twin Brides In A Wedding Officiated By Twin Priests

inquisitr.com



Indian state of Kerala bore witness to one of the most remarkable weddings with twin pair of grooms, brides and priests.

November 13, 2015

Awesome Twosome: Twin Grooms Marry Twin Brides In A Wedding Officiated By Twin Priests

Mohit Priyadarshi

If you think you have heard about all kinds of weddings in the internet age, think again. In a wedding that took place in the coastal Indian state of Kerala, twin grooms married twin brides

with twin priests overseeing the entire affair!

As if that was not enough, twin flower girls and twin page boys were also present to grace the occasion along with a few twin guests, making it an awesomely twosome event.

And did we mention the fact that each pair of twins were identical?

According to *NDTV*, Dilraj and Dinker Varikkassery, hailing from Pulusur in Thrissur district of the southern Indian state of Kerala, have always been close as siblings. Since a young age, they have been accomplishing many things together, so it was no surprise when they voiced their wish to marry a pair of twins to their family five years ago.

“Even in matriculation exam, we scored similar marks,” Dinker revealed, according to the *Daily Mail*. “After graduating from college, we even landed job in the same company (HCL).”

Though the twin young men were inundated with offers from far and wide, something never seemed to click, especially considering the fact that their family wanted the girls to be from similar social backgrounds. The problem was further compounded by the fact that there are on average just one set of twins for every 100 babies born in India. It just seemed impossible, Dinker said.

“Many proposals came following our ads in newspapers and matrimonial sites. The twins were not identical enough. Also, we had to find twins who came from similar family backgrounds.”

But where there is a will, there is always a way. One day, the siblings found out about Reena and Reema, also identical twins, belonging to Idukki district from the same state of Kerala. Once they came to know about their potential brides through an online matrimonial site, the

twins knew their search was over.

“When we met Reena and Reema, we knew it was them we were looking for all this while. Fortunately, they also had the similar feeling after meeting us.”

Remarkably, very much like the twin young men, the girls also studied in the same school, went to the same college to train as nurses, and also landed jobs at the same firm in Dubai. And their search for grooms was no cakewalk, either.

“We had to keep searching the suitable boys for three years in a row. When we saw Dilraj and Dinker we nodded yes to each other. It was a wonderful experience.”

Everything seemed to fall in place, except there were not many twin priests around. Though the brothers had already met the perfect candidates at a wedding ceremony, twin priests Rezi and Rozy Manaparambil had a full calendar.

The twin couples decided to wait for them to get free.

“We had to wait for months for the priests to come solemnize our wedding,” Dilraj said. “But it was worth it.”



`<img src="http://cdn.inquisitr.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/04_12153020_fbf7f5_2559897a-670x447.jpg"`

The twin grooms finally married twin brides in a ceremony held at St. Xavier's Church in Pudur on November 8. The priests traveled 400 miles from Chennai to officiate the wedding. Fortunately, twin flower girls Ansa and Asna and page boys Henry and Hendri didn't need to travel quite so far, since they belonged to the neighborhood.

Since the twin wedding was first covered by a local daily, the event has garnered international media attention, and now the two set of couples feel like mini-celebrities. They posted a short video of their walk up the aisle on

Facebook, which has since gone on to be viewed more than half a million times.

Now that's what we call a truly lovely affair!

[Photo via Dilraj Varikkassery / Facebook]

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Legend has it that a flight attendant who loved the children at once detected the scariest event is remembered in the history of aviation. When after approaching a mother with her baby detected something unusual ...

Legend has it that a flight attendant who loved the children at once detected the scariest event is remembered in the history of aviation. When after approaching a mother with her baby detected something unusual ...

Travel across the Atlantic had always been the most hated by Alicia, a flight attendant for a major international airline that since a few months ago had felt her maternal instinct was fired after marriage and the birth of his first nephew of less than a year. Since then he did not miss any opportunity to give cuddle and spend some words of affection baby as he passed. Feeling mother albeit briefly comforted and encouraged increasingly on its idea of having a large family that waited with open arms after each flight.

Despite the fatigue and the damned "jetlag" of these transoceanic flights in which there was not time to get used to the new schedule Alicia I was especially happy that day. After ten days of work with endless boring flights and sleepless nights in the hotel finally be home with her husband and enjoy some well deserved days off. His joy was clearly visible and smiles and attention devoted to all travelers, even his colleagues were surprised joy, especially considering that there were still more than nine hours of flying to get to Madrid.

As she walked down one of the aisles handing out food trays, he observed a woman scowling holding a baby in her arms, after offering the limited menu (chicken or beef) asked about the creature was asleep.

- Poor thing must be very tired, you need something for the baby rest better? Any extra blanket or maybe warm the bottle when he wakes up?

- No thanks - The woman answered with a frown, a sharp response and so brief that made it clear he did not want them disturbed.

Alicia continued down the hallway as mentally insulted the woman who had offered help and was treated as a waste.

At the end of dividing the trays he told one of his teammates impertinent who had been with her and was told that he had passed something similar when he tried to help her up the suitcase, had led a push to be friendly and approach it. Apparently the woman was rude of care.

Several minutes after the shift began collecting food trays and remains so Alice decided to give a second chance to the woman, after all the baby was not to blame for the behavior of his mother.

- I hope the food has been to his liking - Le Alicia said with a forced smile - To change the diaper on the baby have in the back of the plane a table enabled for this purpose.

I told you before-and I do not need any help - answered the impertinent woman.

Alicia at this point had already declared his hatred and furious Mrs. watched every minute as a rule infringes hoping to get his attention. But she almost did not move or to blink and most curious, her baby remained asleep for more than six hours without ever having received a diaper change or taking a bottle. The stewardess who had made his nephew nanny more than once knew about it a few months babies are like sponges and eat every three hours and if they are not regularly change the diaper can irritate them the butt.

Alicia decided to approach again to check that the baby was fine. She had closed her eyes and slept with the baby and the blanket that covered the creature had moved a little leaving his head uncovered.

Alicia took the opportunity to look at the face of what looked like a baby no more than two months. His skin was pale and his face looked swollen, also gave off a bad smell, so I assumed it would have pooped up and careless mother had not noticed. He decided to wake the lady to warn.

- Excuse me lady - said while slightly touched the shoulder of the woman - I think the baby was poop wants you enable the table to change her diaper?

- Do not bother but as I said before I do not need ayuda.- woman when her baby was uncovered quickly covered him with a blanket entire head.

- But lady if you do not change your baby's diaper can cause discomfort to other passengers and worse can cause skin irritation to your baby.

- No I will tell you how to care for my son !, Leave immediately or I put a complaint off the plane!

Alice was crestfallen to the cockpit, were forbidden to discuss with a traveler without the presence of the head of cabinet. After telling his boss the situation both returned to the seat of the lady.

- Good night lady - said the head cabin with the sweetest voice I could - I would like to inform you of the possibility of changing her baby's diaper in a more comfortable way in the back of the plane and pray that you do to avoid discomfort the other passengers.

- As I told the girl that will change my child when I want to believe Who are you to order me what I have to do it or not ?!

- Lady course we are not ordering anything, but as you read the ticket for your infant is its

obligation to maintain the health of your child and bring you food this need. In any case I inform you that there are milk preparations on board the aircraft and if needed we can prepare one.

- If you do not stop bothering me put them a complaint and tell my husband who is a lawyer to take charge of that never again fly.

- Sorry lady but I think you are confusing what is a sign of concern and our duty as crew with an order or command. Only we are reporting that their obligations.

The woman at this point in the discussion was so heated that he had forgotten to re-cover the baby's head and the smell became even more unbearable. Besides the color with the darkness of the cabin in the hours of rest he seemed pale was actually the pricey purple or light purple and you could see that the baby was indeed very ugly, swollen and very still.

The crew were left staring at the child and mother to realize she covered her again.

- Lady baby looks bad is our obligation to check the good health of all occupants of the airplane you allow me to check?

- You will not touch my baby disgusting pederast!

- Lady I am compelled to ask you to allow me to check that the baby is good or owe inform the captain.

- Call the president if you want but will not touch my child.

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The chief cabin Alicia asked who approached the cockpit and the captain communicated all that had passed and that a passenger refused to follow his instructions. The captain called a relay to one of the co-pilot seat and went to the lady.

- Good lady, my name is Armando Fuentes and I am the captain of this flight. As the highest authority of this plane I request to immediately allow the crew check the health of your child or I will have to warn law enforcement in the destination country are waiting for you to land the plane.

- Captain you will understand that I do not want strangers touching my son - said frightened face myself go to the bathroom and I'll change my baby. Sorry.

- Alicia Mrs. accompany you to the toilet and make sure that you comply with my instructions.
- Said the captain.

Alicia knew something was wrong, it is impossible for any baby sleep many hours without

taking a bottle, like a diaper change and what is most important to several people screaming around. So while she was locked in the bathroom with the child decided to peep through a crack in the door (luckily for her the door was partially broken). What he saw inside left speechless, she undressed the baby and a putrid smell came through the crack, the child was completely purple and a large scar across his entire chest was not moving or making any gesture.

Alicia gave a piercing scream and one of his companions, much beefier Alice, pushed the door open by force (so nervous that neither were reminded that they had a key). The woman lunged at them dropping the baby on the floor and with the help of a passenger could immobilize it.

The captain advised the destination airport they were waiting for the security forces, the baby was dead and the continuous negative mother to get help were due to trying to hide their status.

Police to check the baby took a nasty surprise. They had been emptied all his internal organs and within her body with surgical thread were sewn large quantity of drugs. The alleged "mother" to get into the bathroom which was planned to throw down the toilet all the drugs he had inside the dead child to avoid being captured by customs and prosecuted for drug trafficking.

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The Bad Behaviour of Friars and Women in Medieval Catalan *fabliaux* and Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*¹

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The anti-fraternal tradition in medieval English literature and in Chaucer's works in particular, has been widely studied by scholars over the last fifty years or so.² Nonetheless, it is a subject that is still worth pursuing from a comparative perspective, considering Chaucer's writings on friars, monks and priests (especially in the 'General Prologue', the 'Miller's Tale', both the 'Wife of Bath's Tale' and its 'Prologue', and the 'Shipman's Tale') in relation to works belonging to other European literatures. This provides a fascinating literary experience which may reveal new Romance analogues of Chaucer or else offer some keys for reading and interpreting medieval anti-clerical satire.

In various medieval Catalan narrative works we find examples of genuine bad behaviour exhibited by priests and especially by friars from mendicant orders (mainly Franciscans and Dominicans). As protagonists of these funny and smutty stories they perpetrate various financial and sexual deceptions, and appear as malicious mischief-makers. Together with these characters, women appear sometimes as deceived victims, sometimes as lustful liars trying to conceal their adulterous affairs from their husbands.

The *Disputa de l'ase* [The Argument of the Ass] by Anselm Turmeda (which includes anti-fraternal stories influenced by Boccaccio's *Decameron*), the *Llibre de fra Bernat* [Book of Friar Bernard] by Francesc de la Via (which contains stories similar in style to those of the *fabliaux* tradition), and the anonymous *Col·loqui de dames* [Symposium of Women] (which is notably misogynist in tone) are all fifteenth-century texts which contain grotesque scenes. Through studying these we can consider some interesting aspects of humour in medieval literature. However, it is also important to bear in mind the true significance of these literary works: in all these examples of transgressive behaviour, there is no indication that the perpetrators of such extremely bad deeds will suffer any kind of punishment in the future; by

¹ This article was first presented as a paper at the Colloquium on *Bad Behaviour in Medieval and Early Modern Europe* organised by the Centre of Medieval and Early Modern Studies at the University of Kent at Canterbury, 3rd December 2009.

² The classic works of Arnold Williams (1953), James A. S. McPeck (1951), John Fleming (1966), Jill Mann (1973) and Penn Szittyá (1986) are still useful in this connection. More recently, the studies of Patricia Anne Odber de Baubeta (1992) and Daron Burrows (2005) offer interesting possibilities for comparative studies about anti-clerical satire and the stereotype of the medieval friar. See the bibliography.

condition (lines 27-28) in the same words as Friar Bernat uses in de la Via's work, both of them parodying *Genesis* I, 28: 'God bad us for to wexe and multiplie'. Sexual relations between women and friars as well as with priests appear in the 'Wife of Bath's Tale' (lines 865-81), the 'Pardoner's Prologue' (lines 370-71) and the 'Shipman's Tale', too, where the combination of a handsome and impudent monk ('a fair man and a bold' *Canterbury Tales*, Shipman's Tale, 2005: 25) and a beautiful woman (not so innocent as Turmeda's Madonna Tecla but finally deceived) also presents bad behaviour and adulterous affairs, mixed with financial business in this case.

All these moral and social transgressions receive a final indirect punishment in the 'Parson's Tale', which stands as a form of redemption at the end of the *Canterbury Tales*. In the section dedicated to lechery, we can find an implicit condemnation of all sins related to the sexual bad behaviour previously exhibited by the characters: 'Soothly, the vengeance of avowtrye is awarded to the peines of helle, but if so be that it be destourbed by penitence [Truly, adultery deserves the punishment of hell unless this can be avoided by penitence]' (*Canterbury Tales*, Parson's Tale, 2005: 890). The Catalan works, in general, offer neither rebuke nor any convincing explanation concerning the shameless audacity of either lustful, gluttonous and avaricious friars or lascivious, adulterous women.²⁰ These works were written in the fifteenth century, some decades after Chaucer's tales, and the use of anti-clerical and anti-fraternal satire was more automatic and mechanical by then. However, the main literary aim seems to be similar: to amuse while rendering ambiguous the final moral message of the works. Therefore the authors use the literary device known as *prodesse et delectare* [to instruct and amuse], as a way of legitimising their smutty stories before a medieval reader who does not necessarily share their sense of humour (in this case, an ecclesiastical or female reader).²¹

In all these stories, female sexuality is related to adultery with clerics and therefore antifeminism is mixed with anti-clerical satire. Chaucer is more analytic, meticulous, explicit, presenting more extensive portraits in which the features of every character are depicted. His *modus operandi* is closer to a novelist's narrative art. On the other hand, the Catalan narrations are synthetic, with attention focused on action over description. We do not find any

²⁰ In only one of these Catalan narrations can we find an actual punishment, but it is a physical punishment: in the *Llibre de fra Bernat* the protagonist is brutally beaten by nuns at the end of the story.

²¹ The medieval anti-clerical, and specifically anti-fraternal satire is based on literary subjects which, according to Szittyá(1986), are ideas and charges against the friars that appeared previously in the writings of William of St. Amour, FitzRalph and their followers and originally came from biblical attacks against the Pharisees.

lengthy portraits of characters, only general satirical features which depict the characters as obvious stereotypes (if a friar is handsome, he will also be lustful; if a woman is beautiful she will also be foolish). This narrative practice is poor in the description of characters (based on stereotypes) but it is rich in something that Chaucer is seemingly not interested in: brevity. The Catalan *fabliau* or short narrative form is close to a good short story-writer's literary *modus operandi* in this sense.²²

5. Conclusion

The comparison of these Catalan narratives with the work of Chaucer results in a confirmation of shared themes and similar characters but, broadly speaking, different literary ways or *modus operandi*. It can be thought as a fruitful comparative practice which crosses literary boundaries, showing that the bad behaviour of friars and women was a common topic in medieval European literature generally, from an anti-fraternal as well as anti-feminine perspective, demonstrating the continuity of the anti-fraternal tradition in the comic culture of the Late Middle Ages.²³

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²² Turmeda is perhaps closest to Chaucer in his literary art because of his use of irony.

²³ This article is part of the research project 'La cultura literaria medieval y moderna en la tradición manuscrita e impresa IV' (FFI2009-14206), financed by the Ministry of Science and Innovation (MICINN) of Spain.

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negating the consequences of such deeds, these literary texts satirise the norms of moral behaviour.

This article will examine these works in order to consider how bad behaviour is shown in representative examples of the Romance narrative of the Late Middle Ages. It will also relate some of the themes and characters to Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales* with the aim of establishing points of contact between the two narrative traditions and revealing new possibilities for comparative research in sexual and comic culture in medieval literature.

1. 'Les malvades obres i fets dels religiosos' in Turmeda's satire: the confession of Friar Juliot

Anselm Turmeda, the renegade of medieval Catalan literature, was the author of a very pious and widely read work, the *Llibre dels bons amonestaments* [Book of Good Advice].³ However, he also wrote the *Disputa de l'ase* (1418), into which he inserted brief stories which are framed in terms of the most humorously ironic anti-clerical satire. In this *disputatio* the character Turmeda debates with a wise and loquacious ass in the court of animals about the superiority of men over beasts. The ass – Turmeda's literary *alter ego* – refutes all of Turmeda's arguments; when Turmeda defends the superiority of mankind because it organises itself into social classes, reflected in the hierarchy of religious and monastic orders, the ass enjoys contradicting this argument by narrating six tales which tell of the evil deeds of friars, priests, bishops, popes and, especially, mendicant orders such as Franciscans and Dominicans.⁴

The first anti-fraternal tale in the *Disputa de l'ase* is dedicated to the sin of lust, and tells of the wicked ruse of Friar Juliot, a Dominican, to fool a young married woman. Madonna Tecla goes to Juliot to make her confession, following the advice of her unworldly husband (who thinks Friar Juliot is a very virtuous confessor, because of his good reputation in Tarragona, where the story takes place). Madonna Tecla is a very beautiful but not particularly bright woman. Friar Juliot does not want to lose the possibility of taking advantage of this situation, so he devises an unusual mode of confession. The lustful friar

³ Turmeda was born in Mallorca and became a Franciscan friar, before converting to Islam. He subsequently lived in Tunis, where he worked as a customs officer.

⁴ Although the main source of the *Disputa* is an Arabic apologue included in an encyclopedia edited by the association of Arabian philosophers known as the Brothers of Purity, Turmeda's work differs from the apologue in having a satirical tone which is influenced by other European sources.

asks Tecla how many times she has made love with her husband. The woman obviously does not know and Friar Juliot says to her:⁵

Quelle chrestienne estes-vous, qui ne tenez compte des fois que vostre mary le vous a faict, combien que par droit en ayez à donner le disme au confesseur à qui vous vous confessez? (Turmeda 1984: 95).

[What kind of Christian are you not to have taken account of the times when your husband did it to you, when by law you have to give the tithe to the priest who confesses you?]

This tithe on coitus also appears in Poggio Bracciolini's *Facetiarum Liber* [Book of Witty Sayings] and in *nouvelle* thirty-two of *Les Cent Nouvelles Nouvelles* (A Hundred Novel Tales). However, in Turmeda's version, the combination of a lustful confessor and a foolish woman results in an obscene episode in which Friar Juliot enjoys Madonna Tecla eighteen times on the floor of the monastery on the basis of his right of tithe. (According to Friar Juliot's impromptu calculations, he is entitled to the tenth part of 180 coituses between the woman and her husband). Friar Juliot will remain unpunished for this example of bad behaviour, in contrast to the stories of the *Facetiarum Liber* and *Les Cent Nouvelles Nouvelles*. Moreover, Madonna Tecla appears even more stupid and unwittingly sacrilegious when she says:

et je vous promet en verité que d'icy en avant je y prendray bien garde et conteray combien de foyz mon mary le me fera, et les marqueray avec mes patinostres, afin que je ne les oublie, et chacune foyz qu'il me le fera, je y feray un noud. (Turmeda 1984: 95).

[and I truly promise that I will take good care and carefully count the number of times my husband does it to me, and I will mark them with my rosary so as not to forget, and every time I'll tie a knot.]⁶

The rest of Turmeda's tales are similarly anti-fraternal and cover all the vices which are conventionally assigned to mendicant orders: pride, avarice, gluttony, lechery, envy and even laziness, hypocrisy and simony. However, the funniest and most polished tale is that of Friar Juliot, who reminds us of Friar Alberto, the protagonist of the second novella of the Fourth Day in Boccaccio's *Decameron*. Friar Alberto hears the confession of a foolish married woman named Madonna Lisetta and convinces her he is the angel Gabriel; thereafter she willingly becomes the object of his sexual desires.

⁵ Turmeda's work is preserved in a French translation first edited in Lyon in March, 1544. Armand Llinarès is the author of the critical edition of the French version of the *Disputa* from which the quotations in this article are drawn.

⁶ All translations of original texts are by the author.

2. *Col·loqui de dames: a fierce anti-clerical satire from unfeminine women*

The *Col·loqui de dames* was written circa 1485, in very expressive Catalan poetry.⁷ In the work, an old man relates how a Married Lady, a Widow, and a Devout Woman talk together about sexual subjects in a manner unsuitable for the place and occasion in which they find themselves, which is the cathedral of Valencia on Good Friday.⁸ As in the *Introduzione alla prima giornata* (Introduction to the First Day) of Boccaccio's *Decameron*, these women '*lasciato satre il dire dei paternostri, seco della qualità del tempo molte e varie cose cominciarono a ragionare* [stopped saying the Paternoster and began to talk about the weather and a lot of other matters]'.⁹

The main features of this anonymous text include the use of social reality as raw material, burlesque and sexual themes, a high level of obscenity, a fierce anti-fraternal and anti-clerical satire, and a highly provocative and metaphoric use of language (employing set phrases about sexual organs).⁹

While we cannot take the *Col·loqui* as a 'mirror-text' because it is not a faithful reflection of the social context in fifteenth-century Valencia, it is a good example of a satirical, or even burlesque, representation of some attitudes and situations relating to the bad behaviour of priests, including friars, as well as to female sexuality as understood from a male perspective in the Middle Ages, all addressed in a humorous manner.

For that reason, we find in this work that characters are reduced to mere stereotypes. The Devout Woman is drawn as an authentic *vetula*,¹⁰ an old procuress, a lustful witch; the Lady is married to an old and impotent man and has no qualms in talking proudly about her adultery with knights and friars; the Widow is a gossip busybody and deceitful woman who

⁷ The *Col·loqui de dames* has been preserved in manuscript 151 of the University of Barcelona Library, under the title *Jardinet de orats* [The Little Garden of Fools], a strange and unusual song book. This song book was copied by Narcís Gual, a notary of Barcelona in 1486. Therefore the *Col·loqui* (as an integral text of the *Jardinet*) is presumed to have been written at some point in 1485.

⁸ The church as meeting place is not a novelty since during the greater part of the Middle Ages it was one of the few meeting spaces permitted to women (Martínez 2003: 120). Nor is the day on which the women's discussion takes place any surprise: Petrarch fell in love with Laura on a Good Friday, while Ausias March also fell in love at this time in his poem LXVI (March 2000: 218, mentioned by Martínez 2003: 120).

⁹ It is said that on the day that the scholar Manuel Milà i Fontanals dared to read it, he afterwards went to confess to a priest.

¹⁰ In fact, the old woman was the really sexually experienced woman in the Middle Ages, because she was both conscious of her own erotic desire and had the necessary knowledge to satisfy it. As Martínez (2003: 121) observes, the old woman also may be a counterargument to the Petrarchists. Bailbé (1964: 118) said: '*On comprend que la vieille femme, par sa laideur, par ses vices, par le contraste qu'elle forme avec la jeune beauté, si brillamment exaltée chez les Pétrarquistes, ait retenu particulièrement l'attention de la poésie satirique du XVI^e et du début du XVII^e siècle* [one realises that the old woman, because her ugliness, her vices, the contrast between her and the young beauty, who was exalted with such brilliance by the Petrarchists, might have especially caught the attention of satiric poetry in the 16th and early 17th centuries]'.⁹

has been made pregnant by priests. Adultery, procurement, abortion, even sexual affairs with clerics are debated in this work from a point of view that is grotesque and satirical, even seemingly untypical of a woman.¹¹ Therefore we can say, following Pitarch and Gimeno (1982: 18), that this discussion between women takes sexuality as its main topic.

The theme of marriage with an old man without sexual capabilities appears first in the indignant words of the Married Lady:¹²

Mes trista visch, ab companyia

que no m contenta!

[...]

Fér me sembla ab home vell

qui no té forsa:

com deu navegar a l'orsa,

lavors sossega,

[...]

Bé fonch leig peccat e vici

sembrar vellesa

en lo camp de gentilesa

e joventut! (Col·loqui 2006: 154–177)

[I am sad, living in company which does not please me. It pains me to be with an old man, who has lost his power; he ought to be like a ship under full sail not one that lies becalmed; what a wicked thing it is to sow old age in the field where grace and youth flourish.]

After these words, the Married Lady immediately implies her adultery. In the following lines, she comments on the death of a lover of hers who had been equipped with a good *matràs*, a word that literally means a tool comprising either a wooden stick with a metal head or, simply, a wooden mallet used in farming work; this is one of the many uses of violent imagery as a metaphor for the male sexual organ which the work contains:

ara és mort hu que m'o feya,

y com bé, trista!

No m lexava una rista

en tot lo mas:

tal tenia lo matràs

per spadar [...] (Col·loqui 2006: 545–50)

[Alas, now he is dead, the one who did it to me, and so well! He left my farm without a single stalk: such a tool he had for threshing [...]]

¹¹ See Pitarch and Gimeno (1982) and Martínez (2003: 116).

¹² According to Llàcia Martín's transcription (2006):

http://www.cervantesvirtual.com/servlet/SirveObras/02587285480292995209079/p0000001.htm#I_0

[accessed 2 June 2010] Pitarch and Gimeno's edition (1982) is still useful in order to appreciate the metaphorical and linguistic value of this text.

In the *Col·loqui*, we can see that the author takes delight in anti-clerical sentiments because he attributes sexual activity to almost all kinds of ecclesiastics. He even makes a friar collude with some doctors in the illegal practice of suppressing the Married Lady's menstrual flow, which is very useful to the woman in her adulterous relationships, as she declares:¹³

*...que cade mes era deserta
de ma salut!
A mi venie hun frare hagut
ab altres metges,
e bevien-me los fetges
e quant he;
mes quant hagui tirat lo fre,
jamés lo viui* (*Col·loqui* 2006: 655–62)

[...] each month, my health failed me. An astute friar came with some doctors and they drained the very last drop from my innards; when I got rid of this curb, I never saw it again.]

Next, the Widow affirms without any hint of shame:

*No ha molt que he parit
d'un capellà,
e ja so prenys d'un scolà* (*Col·loqui* 2006: 692–94)

[Not long ago, I gave birth to a child fathered by a priest and already I'm pregnant again, this time by a sacristan.]

In an earlier passage, the Devout Woman talks about the gluttony and lust of canons and bishops (*Col·loqui* 2006: 296–307). She even claims that the deacon of the parish has been chasing her for three years. He has tried to buy sexual favours from this pious woman and, as she tells, he apparently has a '*bon feix* [good bundle]', a good '*punyal de Vich* [dagger from the city of Vic]'; and she says, using clear sexual metaphors, he would hit '*a cada tret* [every shot]' right in her navel; 308–325).¹⁴ She also talks about the priest's two daughters (*Col·loqui* 2006:352–373): the older one 'shows her arse to the stars and the sun' while the younger one '[d]e vergonya no n té micha [...] *tan chasta vida/ tè ab ella / lo qui entra n la capella/ de Sant Hyeronim* [she has not an ounce of shame [...] she has a life as chaste as his who goes with her into Saint Jerome's chapel]' (*Col·loqui* 2006: 364–71).

Later, the Married Lady describes her parish priest who:

*be li escombra les arenes
hun ypocrit e falsari
robador:
de sanctadat dóna color,*

¹³ About contraception, marriage and love relationships in the Christian Western world see Flandrin (1981: 109).

¹⁴ For the navel as a erotic zone in the Middle Ages, see Jacquart and Thomasset (1989: 7).

*y, confessant,
los engonals los va cercant
com hun furó. (Col·loqui 2006: 409–17)*

[is having it away with one of the women in the parish, an hypocrite and a false thief; he assumes an air of sanctity but during confession, he's like a ferret, groping your privates.]

In addition, the Devout Woman seems to have a recipe for some form of contraceptive or abortifacient, when she says:

*Eyo, senyora, tinch scrit
ab què s'afollen
les que may consebre volen (Col·loqui 2006: 232–34)*

[And I, lady, have got written down the means whereby women who have no wish to fall pregnant ever again get rid of it.]

Later on, she asserts defiantly:

*Mirau-me amb ull, que'l gran diable
ab mi's confessa (Col·loqui 2006: 244–45)*

[Pay attention to me, to whom the devil himself confesses]

Elsewhere, this 'pious' woman declares very clearly her views on sexual pleasure and her own erotic desires:

*y per ço tot hom impotent
és desamable;
y volriem hun diable
que ns ho fes. (Col·loqui 2006: 525–28)*

[And because of this, we cease to love any man who becomes impotent and would rather a devil to do it to us.]

3. *Llibre de fra Bernat*: sexual behaviour between friars and nuns

In the *Llibre de fra Bernat*, written in the second half of the fifteenth century, the main character is a perverse and lustful friar. Friar Bernat has an evident predilection for married women and even inhabitants of the convent, amongst whom he seeks fruitlessly for the favours of a young and beautiful nun. When he witnesses both a canon and a knight receiving, in exchange for money and clothes, courtesies and witticisms from the nun, who then demands a gift from him, the friar becomes very angry with her. The narrator irreverently gives us the friar's reaction:

*Ladoncs mès mans a la braga,
mostrà-li son rava. (Llibre 1997: 1526–27)*

[Then he put his hands in his drawers and showed his 'radish' to her.]

The shameless nun is not embarrassed by this example of exhibitionism,¹⁵ and the narrator describes in detail the ‘gift’ that the well-hung friar gives her. As in the case of the Married Woman’s lover, it is a good *matràs*:

*La monja's mostrà fort brava
a fra Bernat,
quan viu son matràs ben format
e stech drets,
car n'ach un gran palm e tres dets,
ab gran squena,
sí que l clarejava la vena [...]* (Llibre 1997: 1528–34)

[Friar Bernat found the nun was very game when she saw his well-formed ‘mallet’, his upright ‘cudgel’, for it was a good hand’s span and three fingers in length with skin so taut the veins beneath showed through.]

4. From Friar Huberd to Friar Juliot and Friar Bernat and from the Wife of Bath to the women of the *Col·loqui de dames*: the common threads that link Chaucer to fifteenth-century Catalan *fabliaux*

Obviously, Chaucer’s sources and analogues are different from the sources of these Catalan *fabliaux* of the fifteenth century but they share a number of ideas and stereotypes which may be suitable for a comparative study.¹⁶ These ideas are related to the anti-fraternal tradition and to portrayals of female sexuality and present conventional *topoi* and well-known commonplaces. Comparing fragments like the ones quoted above with lines from the *Canterbury Tales*, especially the portraits of the Monk, the Friar, the Wife of Bath and the Pardoner in the General Prologue brings interesting results. The estates satire¹⁷ in Chaucer’s portraits of various characters surfaces in the lines describing their gluttony, lechery, avarice and moral corruption: the Monk (‘a lord ful fat and in good point [a fine, plump man]’ *Canterbury Tales*, General Prologue, 2005: 200); the Friar (‘he hadde maad ful many a mariage / of yonge wommen at his owene cost [he had arranged many marriages for young women at his own expense]’ *Canterbury Tales*, General Prologue, 2005: 212–13); the Wife of Bath (‘gat-tothed was she [her teeth were set wide apart]’ *Canterbury Tales*, General Prologue, 2005: 468) and the Pardoner (‘he moste preche and wel affile his tonge/ to winne silver, as he ful wel koude [he had to preach, softening his speech in order to earn money, as

¹⁵ In the *Sermó del bisbetó* [The Sermon of the Little Bishop], we read about the promiscuous habits of some nuns: ‘*van més per vila cavalcant / ab los fadrins* [they go riding with the lads through the village as well]’ (Pacheco 1997: 190).

¹⁶ See Correale and Hamel (2002–2005) *Sources and Analogues of The Canterbury Tales*.

¹⁷ See Jill Mann, *Chaucer and Medieval Estates Satire. The Literature of Social Classes and the General Prologue to the Canterbury Tales* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1973).

he knew full well how to do]' *Canterbury Tales*, General Prologue, 2005: 712-13).¹⁸ In this sense, what Friar Huberd has in common with Friar Juliot and Friar Bernat and the similarities between the Wife of Bath and the three women of the *Col·loqui de dames* may provide a point of departure for a comparative study of satire and misogamy in medieval English and Catalan literature and offer new possibilities for discovering literary connections in medieval Europe.¹⁹

The theme of marriage and love affairs with old men in the 'Miller's Tale' connects it to the discussion of sexual matters in the *Col·loqui de dames*.

*Jalous he was, and heeld hire narwe in cage,
For she was wylde and yong, and he was old
And demed himself been lik a cokewold.
He knew not Catoun – for his wit was rude –
That bad man sholde wedde his similitude.
Men sholde wedden after hire estaat,
For youthe and elde is often at debaat.*

(*Canterbury Tales*, Miller's Tale, 2005: 3224-30)

[Jealous he was, and held her close confined
For she was young and wild, and he was old
And feared he would become a cuckold.
He had not read his Cato, for he was not learned,
And did not know he should have married someone of his own kind.
Men should marry according to their age and rank,
For youth and age often disagree.]

The *senectutis molestiae* [inconveniences of old age] and the sexual *impotentia* of old men is discussed in a range of works, from Juvenal to the Romance poetry of the Late Middle Ages, passing through literary, scholastic and medical works such as Bartholomaeus Anglicus' *De Proprietatibus Rerum* (On the Properties of Things), Bernard de Gordon's *Lilium Medicinae* [The Lily of Medicine] and Boncompagno da Signa's *De malo senectutis et senii* [On the Evils of Old Age and Decline]. It is an important theme in the 'Merchant's Tale' and in some Catalan works of the fifteenth century, such as the poems, *Lo procès de les olives* [Processing the Olives] and *Lo somni de Joan Joan* [The Dream of Johan-Johan]. The Wife of Bath in her 'Prologue' seems to be an expert in the matter of marriage to an old man. She introduces herself in a way similar to that of the Married Lady of the *Col·loqui*, while her knowledge of sexuality is similar to that of the Widow and the Devout Woman (suggesting that both Chaucer and the anonymous author of the *Col·loqui de dames* employ similar misogynist themes). Moreover, the Wife of Bath expresses her opinion of the human sexual

¹⁸ All the quotations from the *Canterbury Tales* are from Jill Mann's edition (2005).

¹⁹ See the article of Hodges (2000) about Friar Huberd, the character of the *Canterbury Tales*.

'It had greedy, yellow eyes' - Beast of Bolton spotted after 5 year absence by terrified driver

Wednesday 11 November 2015

theboltonnews.co.uk

AFTER years lurking in the shadows, it looks like the Beast of Bolton is back.

There have been numerous sightings of a mysterious black creature stalking the town dating back to 2006 – with the last being five years ago.

This time, an eyewitness has described seeing a panther-like animal with 'greedy yellow eyes' in Farnworth last night, Tuesday November 10.

Terrified Natalie Kay described the moment she came face to face with the elusive animal while driving her Vauxhall Zafira along Doe Hey Road at around 9.30pm.

"I was coming back from the shops and this thing just appeared in front of my car. I had to slam the brakes on," said the 28-year-old.

"It just stopped dead right in the middle of the road and was staring at me.

"I knew it wasn't a dog. It looked like a cat but it wasn't. It was much bigger and had a long tail, pointed ears and these greedy yellow eyes.

"It was about the same size as the bonnet of my car. It was really scary. I haven't seen anything like that before. The next minute it dashed off. It was really fast."



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Natalie said the beast ran down the dirt track that links Doe Hey Road to Harper Green Road, between Higher and Lower Doe Hey Reservoirs.

Shaken, Natalie returned home to Carnation Road, Farnworth, where she told mum and dad, Linda and Ray, about the encounter.

"I was trembling when I got in," she said. "I told them about what had happened and they said something like that had been seen before."

Natalie's mum and dad found a picture of a black panther online, which Natalie confirmed as looking similar to what she had seen.

Score: 5

boltonianfella 6:16pm Wed 11 Nov 15

Since when did Phil Gartside live in Farnworth??

Since when did Phil Gartside live in Farnworth?? boltonianfella

Since when did Phil Gartside live in Farnworth??

Score: 9

Reebok AI boltonianfella6:33pm Wed 11 Nov 15

You beat me to it.

You beat me to it. Reebok AI

You beat me to it.


snmurray96:24pm Wed 11 Nov 15

Apparently the 'beast ' has been on a 5 year holiday to narnia , hence the absence . she should go to specsavers

Apparently the 'beast ' has been on a 5 year holiday to narnia , hence the absence . she should go to specsavers snmurray9

Apparently the 'beast ' has been on a 5 year holiday to narnia , hence the absence .

she should go to specsavers

 snmurray9 snmurray9 3:18pm Thu 12 Nov 15

Ref

Greedy yellow eyes ?

It was in the pound bakery at lunchtime

Greedy yellow eyes ? It was in the pound bakery at lunchtime snmurray9

Greedy yellow eyes ?

It was in the pound bakery at lunchtime

Score: 0

Leebe1981 snmurray96:34pm Thu 12 Nov 15

snmurray9 wrote...

Apparently the 'beast ' has been on a 5 year holiday to narnia , hence the absence .

she should go to specsavers

She went there earlier this year!

[quote][p][b>snmurray9] wrote: Apparently the 'beast ' has been on a 5 year holiday to narnia , hence the absence . she should go to specsavers[/p][/quote]She went there earlier this year! Leebe1981

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she should go to specsavers

She went there earlier this year!

PennyL 7:34pm Wed 11 Nov 15

Looks like my cat! must put her on a diet.

Looks like my cat! must put her on a diet. PennyL

Looks like my cat! must put her on a diet.

Score: 0

hoppyhol 7:37pm Wed 11 Nov 15

"Greedy yellow eyes".....sure it wasn't the rear view mirror that she saw?

"Greedy yellow eyes".....sure it wasn't the rear view mirror that she saw? hoppyhol

"Greedy yellow eyes".....sure it wasn't the rear view mirror that she saw?

Score: 3

[deleted] 7:41pm Wed 11 Nov 15

[deleted]

[deleted] [deleted]

[deleted]

Score: 0

Citizen Cane 8:05pm Wed 11 Nov 15

Why is the council not protecting people from this beast? This is a highly dangerous creature that has neither injured nor killed anyone in the last decade. It'll be turning up at the Man & Scythe next - at least it will be on video then.

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Why is the council not protecting people from this beast? This is a highly dangerous creature that has neither injured nor killed anyone in the last decade. It'll be turning up at the Man & Scythe next - at least it will be on video then.

Score: 1
abcd_abcd 8:55pm Wed 11 Nov 15

Beauty and the Beast :)

Beauty and the Beast :) abcd_abcd

Beauty and the Beast :)

Score: 0
melloj 9:21pm Wed 11 Nov 15

Walked through Doe Hey many times at night and the early hours coming back from town. Scariest thing I ever saw was an angry swan with its swanlings in tow. Frightened the life out of me.

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Score: 2
ianhandley64 9:42pm Wed 11 Nov 15

wonder if it was obese look no further than the town loads of fat cat s in there

wonder if it was obese look no further than the town loads of fat cat s in there ianhandley64

wonder if it was obese look no further than the town loads of fat cat s in there

Score: 0
wayney.89 11:26pm Wed 11 Nov 15

The only beast in bolton is Bolton Wanderers 1877 mother !!!!!

The only beast in bolton is Bolton Wanderers 1877 mother !!!!! wayney.89

The only beast in bolton is Bolton Wanderers 1877 mother !!!!!

Score: 1

→ fattytattywayne89 wayney.89 4:53pm Thu 12 Nov 15

Ref

You bore us WAYNE89.

Have you nothing better to do with your pathetic jobless time?

Jog on.

You bore us WAYNE89. Have you nothing better to do with your pathetic jobless time? Jog on. fattytattywayne89

You bore us WAYNE89.

Have you nothing better to do with your pathetic jobless time?

Jog on.

Score: 10

rubadubdub 11:56pm Wed 11 Nov 15

Salad dodger

Salad dodger rubadubdub

Salad dodger

Score: 0

→ wayney89 rubadubdub 8:35pm Thu 12 Nov 15

Ref

Who is?

Knobbly nuts.

Who is? Knobbly nuts. wayney89

Who is?

Knobbly nuts.

Score: 0

wsw69 1:16am Thu 12 Nov 15

We shall all be expected to believe that the Loch Ness monster actually exists.

Someone is taking the p155 and the Bolton News can't wait to over hype ANYTHING and get it in the snoozepaper.

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Score: 0

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Someone is taking the p155 and the Bolton News can't wait to over hype ANYTHING and get it in the snoozepaper.

Score: 0

Changeit! 2:55am Thu 12 Nov 15

I first heard about this when I was a kid. That was long before 2009.

I first heard about this when I was a kid. That was long before 2009. Changeit!

I first heard about this when I was a kid. That was long before 2009.

Score: 1

Boltoner1 7:53am Thu 12 Nov 15

The headlines used on BN are so poor. How long winded can they get. You aren't meant to tell the story in the headline. A 5 year old can come up with these.

The headlines used on BN are so poor. How long winded can they get. You aren't meant to tell the story in the headline. A 5 year old can come up with these. Boltoner1

The headlines used on BN are so poor. How long winded can they get. You aren't meant to tell the story in the headline. A 5 year old can come up with these.

Score: 1


SleepingThunder 2:51pm Thu 12 Nov 15

All sighting's seem to take place around November & December time in this area .I saw it on country path between old hall lane around Dec 2012,very long tail & long low slung body .

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SleepingThunder

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Score: 0

 wayney89 SleepingThunder 8:36pm Thu 12 Nov 15

Ref

There are some funny sightings in Moses Ghetto to be fair.

There are some funny sightings in Moses Ghetto to be fair. wayney89

There are some funny sightings in Moses Ghetto to be fair.

Score: 1

[deleted] 4:27pm Thu 12 Nov 15

[deleted]

I'm making over £7k a month working part time. I kept hearing other people tell me how much money they can make online so I decided to look into it. Well, it was all true and has totally changed my life. For further details Check this link >>> www.pay-buzz.com AmandaJSobel

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Score: 0

Ben Buff 4:48pm Thu 12 Nov 15

Was the Zafira going 'Meeeeeeeeooooooooooooow
www!' down the road?

That's the best laugh I've had in ages. I like the comment from the GB Big Cat Nutter Society. No evidence or anything but he's positive there's a big cat out'n'about.

To be honest at 9.30 on ANY evening I'm surprised even Baghera himself would be brave enough to slope about the streets of 'nth looking for discarded take aways, bottles of Bacardi Breezer and small children.

This story has really brightened my day.

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Score: 0
debbiehatswell 5:07pm Thu 12 Nov 15

is there anybody that could put me in touch with natalie, im researching a book on lancashire cryptids and would love to include her account

is there anybody that could put me in touch with natalie, im researching a book on lancashire cryptids and would love to include her account debbiehatswell

is there anybody that could put me in touch with natalie, im researching a book on lancashire cryptids and would love to include her account

Score: 0
[deleted] 5:20pm Thu 12 Nov 15
[deleted]

I'm making over £7k a month working part time. I kept hearing other people tell me how much money they can make online so I decided to look into it. Well, it was all true and has totally changed my life. For further details Check this link >>> www.pay-buzz.com AmandaJSobel

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Check this link >>> www.pay-buzz.com

Score: 0
boltonnut 6:50pm Thu 12 Nov 15

Hungry eyes is more apt.If this big cat attacked Natalie it would have bitten off more than it

could chew,going off the photo of her.

Hungry eyes is more apt.If this big cat attacked Natalie it would have bitten off more than it could chew,going off the photo of her. boltonnut

Hungry eyes is more apt.If this big cat attacked Natalie it would have bitten off more than it could chew,going off the photo of her.

Score: 0

 Leebe1981 boltonnut 11:07pm Fri 13 Nov 15
Ref

boltonnut wrote...

Hungry eyes is more apt.If this big cat attacked Natalie it would have bitten off more than it could chew,going off the photo of her.

What's that sposed to mean?


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Hungry eyes is more apt.If this big cat attacked Natalie it would have bitten off more than it could chew,going off the photo of her.

What's that sposed to mean?

Score: 0

 bullrootin 8:21pm Thu 12 Nov 15

A hungry crow wouldnt stop in farnworth..never mind a black panther....the witness is makin this up....its mushroom season..lol

A hungry crow wouldnt stop in farnworth..never mind a black panther....the witness is makin this up....its mushroom season..lol bullrootin

A hungry crow wouldnt stop in farnworth..never mind a black panther....the witness is makin this up....its mushroom season..lol

Score: 0

 wayney89 bullrootin 8:38pm Thu 12 Nov 15
Ref

Bullrootin, shush ya fat mush.

Farnworth is Gods country, and you come from top of the brow - a ravenous hyena wouldn't stop there.

Bullrootin, shush ya fat mush. Farnworth is Gods country, and you come from top of the brow - a ravenous hyena wouldn't stop there. wayney89

Bullrootin, shush ya fat mush.

Farnworth is Gods country, and you come from top of the brow - a ravenous hyena wouldn't stop there.

Score: 0

Ernagy2 8:47pm Thu 12 Nov 15

I'm disappointed no mention of Cliff Morris - come on ladies and gents (lol)

I'm disappointed no mention of Cliff Morris - come on ladies and gents (lol) Ernagy2

I'm disappointed no mention of Cliff Morris - come on ladies and gents (lol)

Score: 0

ciaaerials@sky.com 9:39pm Thu 12 Nov 15

There used to be a bloke who kept a big cat ie panther/cheeter or something similar in a cage and in a house on the other side of doe hey lodge, broad oak rd. it was 30 years ago ish. i saw it a few times in a large cage in his back garden when i was playing in doe hey as a child.

Is it possible he still keeps a large cat/cats and it escaped?

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Score: 0

[deleted] 10:05pm Thu 12 Nov 15

[deleted]

[deleted] [deleted]

[deleted]

Score: 0

Bolton Wanderers 1877 ♥s The Bolton Seven 10:16pm Thu 12 Nov 15

You are getting so boring Bolton Wanderers 1877 it's about time you got off your work shy arse and did something with your pathetic life.

You are getting so boring Bolton Wanderers 1877 it's about time you got off your work shy arse and did something with your pathetic life. Bolton Wanderers 1877 ♥s The Bolton Seven

You are getting so boring Bolton Wanderers 1877 it's about time you got off your work shy arse and did something with your pathetic life.

Score: 0

 wayney89 Bolton Wanderers 1877 ♥s The Bolton Seven 11:46am Fri 13 Nov 15
Ref

Gumby Nuts.

Jog on.

Gumby Nuts. Jog on. wayney89

Gumby Nuts.

Jog on.

Score: 8

 fattytattywayne89 Bolton Wanderers 1877 ♥s The Bolton Seven 12:07pm Fri 13 Nov 15
Ref

WAYNE89.....YOU LOSER.

WAYNE89.....YOU LOSER. fattytattywayne89

WAYNE89.....YOU LOSER.

Score: 2

 auntyusman666 Bolton Wanderers 1877 ♥s The Bolton Seven 3:32pm Fri 13 Nov 15
Ref

Wayne89.

Sad, pathetic, lonely and smelly.

We must pity him, not reprimand him, for all these silly usernames and posts.

Why do you dislike bolton wanderers 1877 so much?

Because you are not as clever? he makes you feel inferior? you smell and he doesn't ?

Tell us all, purleeeeeeze?

Wayne89. Sad, pathetic, lonely and smelly. We must pity him, not reprimand him, for all these silly usernames and posts. Why do you dislike bolton wanderers 1877 so much?

Because you are not as clever? he makes you feel inferior? you smell and he doesn't ? Tell us all, purleeeeeeze? auntyusman666

Wayne89.

Sad, pathetic, lonely and smelly.

We must pity him, not reprimand him, for all these silly usernames and posts.

Why do you dislike bolton wanderers 1877 so much?

"I didn't know there was anything like that around here – that other people had seen things," she added.

"There are playing fields near where I saw it. It's scary when you think that children play around there.

"You hear of these animals in jungles, but you wouldn't think anything like that could live in Bolton."

Danny Bamping of The British Big Cat Society has previously told the Bolton News that it's 'quite likely' the Beast of Bolton exists.

JimmyRustler 12:57pm Wed 11 Nov 15

Terrified Natalie Kay described the moment she came face to face with the elusive animal while driving her Vauxhall Zafira along Doe Hey Road at around 9.30pm.

Why was the Beast driving her Vauxhall Zafira???

There are lots of green greedy eyed beasts with drooling fangs and evil intentions in the harper green area of farnworth - and they arent animal, they are ALL human,

Terrified Natalie Kay described the moment she came face to face with the elusive animal while driving her Vauxhall Zafira along Doe Hey Road at around 9.30pm. Why was the Beast driving her Vauxhall Zafira??? There are lots of green greedy eyed beasts with drooling fangs and evil intentions in the harper green area of farnworth - and they arent animal, they are ALL human, JimmyRustler

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Why was the Beast driving her Vauxhall Zafira???

There are lots of green greedy eyed beasts with drooling fangs and evil intentions in the harper green area of farnworth - and they arent animal, they are ALL human,

Score: 41

CommonSense86 1:09pm Wed 11 Nov 15

Slam the 'Breaks' on? Come on...

Slam the 'Breaks' on? Come on... CommonSense86

Slam the 'Breaks' on? Come on...

Score: 7

Because you are not as clever? he makes you feel inferior? you smell and he doesn't ?

Tell us all, purleeeeeze?

Score: 0

oftbewildered2 4:08am Fri 13 Nov 15

had the driver been absent for five years then?

had the driver been absent for five years then? oftbewildered2

had the driver been absent for five years then?

Score: 0

Rivertin 10:36am Fri 13 Nov 15

Not sure why some people view this as such a strange occurrence, in the past stuff like this was sometimes considered paranormal...but it is not such a leap of the imagination that at least a handful of solitary big cats are on the loose in the UK and are sometimes spotted , I wonder if any capable of breeding with each other have or will meet? I suppose they can and do cover great distances, I mean small domestic cats have been known to travel many miles

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Score: 1

fattytattywayne89 12:06pm Fri 13 Nov 15

At a rough guess, how many accounts does slimey, idle, wayne89 have on here?

At the last count - it was 22.

Since the Rocket was declared a derelict dump and all it's loser regulars were turfed out onto the mean streets of Breightmet, he has taken to hi-jacking peoples names on here, and being a right nobhead!!

A smelly keyboard warrior with no prospects.

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A smelly keyboard warrior with no prospects.

Score: 2

 auntyusman666 fattytattywayne89 3:34pm Fri 13 Nov 15

Ref

Wayne89.

Was picked on at school because his mummy bought all his clothes at The Army and Navy Stores.

He spent all year 8 dressed as a Japanese General.

Awwwwwwwww.

Wayne89. Was picked on at school because his mummy bought all his clothes at The Army and Navy Stores. He spent all year 8 dressed as a Japanese General. Awwwwwwwww. auntyusman666

Wayne89.

Was picked on at school because his mummy bought all his clothes at The Army and Navy Stores.

He spent all year 8 dressed as a Japanese General.

Awwwwwwwww.

Score: 0

MarkAllRead 12:53pm Fri 13 Nov 15

What the hell are "greedy eyes"? What do they look like compared to regular eyes?

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MarkAllRead

What the hell are "greedy eyes"? What do they look like compared to regular eyes?

Score: 0

👉 Ben Buff MarkAllRead 1:37pm Fri 13 Nov 15

Ref

Don't you remember the song? 'Greedy eyes/One look at you and I can't disguise/I've got gree-....' Oh, hold on a tick. No, erm....

Could the sighting be of Manimal? The crimebusting, shape shifting hero who had the ability to change into ANY animal including a PANTHER (although he did only ever did panther, eagle and kangaroo - Peter Kay would KILL for this stuff!)

It was believed that the actor who played the 'Man' part of Manimal had died, choking to death on a mouse however I now believe he faked his own death and moved to Bolton where he now prowls the streets waiting for drivers of clapped out Vauxhalls to worry.

It's not much of a life but he gets some enjoyment from it.

One thing I would be aware of. The Vauxhall Zafira, while not a bad car for its class per se is notorious for it's poor quality air blowers. They'll either not work at all or come on full bung in the hot summer months.

Don't you remember the song? 'Greedy eyes/One look at you and I can't disguise/I've got gree-....' Oh, hold on a tick. No, erm.... Could the sighting be of Manimal? The crimebusting, shape shifting hero who had the ability to change into ANY animal including a PANTHER (although he did only ever did panther, eagle and kangaroo - Peter Kay would KILL for this stuff!) It was believed that the actor who played the 'Man' part of Manimal had died, choking to death on a mouse however I now believe he faked his own death and moved to Bolton where he now prowls the streets waiting for drivers of clapped out Vauxhalls to worry. It's not much of a life but he gets some enjoyment from it. One thing I would be aware of. The Vauxhall Zafira, while not a bad car for its class per se is notorious for it's poor quality air blowers. They'll either not work at all or come on full bung in the hot summer months. Ben Buff

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Score: 0

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/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*


 Boltonresident2012 CommonSense86 3:52pm Wed 11 Nov 15
Ref

how about 'absence' on the front page ...

how about 'absence' on the front page ... Boltonresident2012

how about 'absence' on the front page ...

Score: 3

 Leebe1981 CommonSense86 11:18pm Fri 13 Nov 15
Ref

CommonSense86 wrote...

Leebe1981 wrote...

CommonSense86 wrote...

Slam the 'Breaks' on? Come on...

?

See Boltonresident2012's response, error has been updated now :)

What has boltonresident2012's response go to do with you not be living she had to slam the breaks on?

[quote][p][b]CommonSense86[/b] wrote: [quote][p][b]Leebe1981[/b] wrote: [quote][p][b]CommonSense86[/b] wrote: Slam the 'Breaks' on? Come on...[/p][p]See Boltonresident2012's response, error has been updated now :)[/p][p]What has boltonresident2012's response go to do with you not be living she had to slam the breaks on? Leebe1981

CommonSense86 wrote...

Leebe1981 wrote...

CommonSense86 wrote...

Slam the 'Breaks' on? Come on...

?

See Boltonresident2012's response, error has been updated now :)

What has boltonresident2012's response go to do with you not be living she had to slam the breaks on?

Score: 0

CommonSense86 1:12pm Wed 11 Nov 15


Oh, and returning home from the shop to Carnation Road, in a car. Why go down Doe Hey road? You can't get through in a car that way...

Last edited: 1:11am Thu 12 Nov 15

Oh, and returning home from the shop to Carnation Road, in a car. Why go down Doe Hey road? You can't get through in a car that way... CommonSense86

Oh, and returning home from the shop to Carnation Road, in a car. Why go down Doe Hey road? You can't get through in a car that way...

Score: 3

 [deleted] CommonSense86 8:22am Thu 12 Nov 15

Ref [deleted]

[deleted] [deleted]

[deleted]

Score: 0

 senor blobster CommonSense86 8:22am Thu 12 Nov 15


Ref

Dogging, but came across a Big ****?

Dogging, but came across a Big ****? senor blobster

Dogging, but came across a Big ****?

Score: 0

 senor blobster senor blobster 8:24am Thu 12 Nov 15

Ref

Why wont it let me type P U S S Y

Why wont it let me type P U S S Y senor blobster

Why wont it let me type P U S S Y

Score: 0

Leebe1981 CommonSense866:23pm Thu 12 Nov 15

CommonSense86 wrote...

Oh, and returning home from the shop to Carnation Road, in a car. Why go down Doe Hey

road? You can't get through in a car that way...

What is the road at the front and the side of the shops then dumb arse??

[quote][p][b>CommonSense86[/b] wrote: Oh, and returning home from the shop to Carnation Road, in a car. Why go down Doe Hey road? You can't get through in a car that way...[/p]/quote]What is the road at the front and the side of the shops then dumb arse??

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➡ **CommonSense86** **Leebe1981** 8:47am Fri 13 Nov 15
Ref

Leebe1981 wrote...

CommonSense86 wrote...

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That'll be Harper Green road, check your map smart arse

[quote][p][b>Leebe1981[/b] wrote: [quote][p][b>CommonSense86[/b] wrote: Oh, and returning home from the shop to Carnation Road, in a car. Why go down Doe Hey road? You can't get through in a car that way...[/p]/quote]What is the road at the front and the side of the shops then dumb arse?[/p]/quote]That'll be Harper Green road, check your map smart arse **CommonSense86**

Leebe1981 wrote...

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Score: 0

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That'll be Harper Green road, check your map smart arse

That's why they said NEAR Doe Hey not on it and I think you'll find harper green is opposite the shops so why don't you check your maps

[quote][p][b>CommonSense86 wrote: [quote][p][b>Leebe1981 wrote: [quote][p][b>CommonSense86 wrote: Oh, and returning home from the shop to Carnation Road, in a car. Why go down Doe Hey road? You can't get through in a car that way...[/p][p]What is the road at the front and the side of the shops then dumb arse??[/p][p]That'll be Harper Green road, check your map smart arse[/p][p]That's why they said NEAR Doe Hey not on it and I think you'll find harper green is opposite the shops so why don't you check your maps Leebe1981

Leebe1981 wrote...


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That's why they said NEAR Doe Hey not on it and I think you'll find harper green is opposite the shops so why don't you check your maps

 **Leebe1981** **CommonSense86** 6:30pm Thu 12 Nov 15
Ref

CommonSense86 wrote...

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What is the road at the front and the side of the shops then dumb arse?

[quote][p][b>CommonSense86 wrote: Oh, and returning home from the shop to Carnation Road, in a car. Why go down Doe Hey road? You can't get through in a car that way...[/p][p]What is the road at the front and the side of the shops then dumb arse?

Leebe1981

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What is the road at the front and the side of the shops then dumb arse?

Score: 0

[deleted] 1:22pm Wed 11 Nov 15

[deleted]

what is the relevance of her being unemployed - so what? Boltonresident2012

what is the relevance of her being unemployed - so what?

Score: 0

peewit the third 1:45pm Wed 11 Nov 15

It gets about a bit!

It gets about a bit! peewit the third

It gets about a bit!

Score: 5

👉 wayney89 peewit the third 7:59pm Wed 11 Nov 15

Ref

Like tommie1shunt's mum.

Like tommie1shunt's mum. wayney89

Like tommie1shunt's mum.

Score: 0

Gazo761:47pm Wed 11 Nov 15

Isn't that shortcut now blocked off?

Purrhaps this is case of mistaken identity.

Probably just a very big black cat.

If something bigger was lurking around those parts, it would have been seen numerous times and small pets and children would be going missing on a frequent basis.

Nothing to report here.

Isn't that shortcut now blocked off? Purrhaps this is case of mistaken identity. Probably just a very big black cat. If something bigger was lurking around those parts, it would have been seen numerous times and small pets and children would be going missing on a frequent

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If something bigger was lurking around those parts, it would have been seen numerous times and small pets and children would be going missing on a frequent basis.

Nothing to report here.


«::A::» «::W::» «::E::» «::S::» «::O::» «::M::» «::E::» 2:44pm Wed 11 Nov 15

it was me in my big fur coat

it was me in my big fur coat «::A::» «::W::» «::E::» «::S::» «::O::» «::M::» «::E::»

it was me in my big fur coat

Score: 5

 wayney89 «::A::» «::W::» «::E::» «::S::» «::O::» «::M::» «::E::» 4:08pm Wed 11 Nov 15
Ref

It was tommie1shunt's mum.

She is hairy.

She used to be a werewolf, but she's not noooooooooooooooooow!!

It was tommie1shunt's mum. She is hairy. She used to be a werewolf, but she's not noooooooooooooooooow!! wayney89

It was tommie1shunt's mum.

She is hairy.

She used to be a werewolf, but she's not noooooooooooooooooow!!

Score: 1

wayney893:58pm Wed 11 Nov 15

How does a leopard change its spots ? When it gets tired of one spot it just moves to another ! There are no Beasts lurking in The Doe Hey Lodges, unless you yourself have been sniffing Sellotape or been on Khat (geddit? -I'm here all week folks) !!!

How does a leopard change its spots ? When it gets tired of one spot it just moves to another ! There are no Beasts lurking in The Doe Hey Lodges, unless you yourself have been sniffing Sellotape or been on Khat (geddit? -I'm here all week folks) !!! wayney89

How does a leopard change its spots ?

When it gets tired of one spot it just moves to another !

There are no Beasts lurking in The Doe Hey Lodges, unless you yourself have been sniffing Sellotape or been on Khat (geddit? -I'm here all week folks) !!!

retrokid 4:19pm Wed 11 Nov 15

I seen that beast too! It was driving a Vauxhall Zafira!!!! How tf can it drive? **** that, how can it talk to news reporters?

I seen that beast too! It was driving a Vauxhall Zafira!!!! How tf can it drive? **** that, how can it talk to news reporters? retrokid

I seen that beast too! It was driving a Vauxhall Zafira!!!! How tf can it drive? **** that, how can it talk to news reporters?

Score: 2

[deleted] 4:19pm Wed 11 Nov 15

[deleted]

[deleted] [deleted]

[deleted]

Score: 0

[deleted] 4:19pm Wed 11 Nov 15

[deleted]

[deleted] [deleted]

[deleted]

Score: 0

JustaBloke2000 4:29pm Wed 11 Nov 15

Greedy eyes?

Greedy eyes? JustaBloke2000

Greedy eyes?

Score: 3

Boltonresident2012 4:30pm Wed 11 Nov 15

'yellow greedy eyes' which particular worthy member of the council are we talking about?

'yellow greedy eyes' which particular worthy member of the council are we talking about?
Boltonresident2012

'yellow greedy eyes' which particular worthy member of the council are we talking about?

NEW YORK DAILY NEWS

Tuesday, November 17, 2015, 6:35 PM



New York Daily News

New York Daily News article January 4, 1959

(Originally published by the Daily News on January 4, 1959. This story was written by Tom Allen.)

We all certainly were as dumb as ever in 1958, but for some reason we didn't fall for our usual quota of hoaxes. Or maybe it's just that hoaxers don't hoax like they used to in less troubled times.

One hoax in the grand manner was pulled in England. Though we didn't come close to matching it, we had a couple of cases which, as the extrasensory perception fans say, "cannot be scientifically explained."

The hoax-hunters' year got off to a promising start when screw-top bottles were reported popping their caps in the Seaford, L.I., home of the James Herrmanns. But when furniture and bric-a-brac began hurtling around the house, the hoax theory underfoot by a parade of scientists and pseudo-scientists. The case still has not been solved.

Then there was Big Foot. He lumbered out of the tall timber in northern California last year and is now so famous that official chamber of commerce maps mark the spots where his 16-inch footprints were found.

Big Foot's tracks were discovered in rugged Humboldt County, where construction crews are carving out a road. When he ambled along, the length of his stride was nearly 6 feet. When he ran he produced a 10-foot stride.

Humboldt's version of the Abominable Snowman has been seen, as far as is known, by only three persons. Two construction workers said they saw him bound across the road while they were driving to their camp. He was covered with hair, towered 8 to 10 feet, and was 4 feet across the shoulders, they reported.

Another worker was warming up his bulldozer one morning when he saw Big Foot nosing around. A few days later, the bulldozer operator left the job. He has not returned.

Al Corbett, a Seattle taxidermist who viewed Big Foot's tracks, said they were "definitely human" and were made by a man, between 6 feet 7 and 7 feet 6, weighing up to 400 pounds. Corbett believes the tracks were made by a very wild Indian.

Indians from the nearby Hoopa Reservation say they have been seeing the tracks for years. The Indians believe the tracks are those of survivors of a legendary tribe of big-footed aborigines who once roamed the area.

Though he never came right out and said hoax, Humboldt County Sheriff Albert A. Nickols is skeptical about Big Foot. So skeptical, in fact, that Ray Wallace, employer of the road building crew pestered by Big Foot, felt obliged to deny that the critter is imaginary. Wallace even threatened to sue the sheriff, but he didn't say over what.

Wallace, who hopes someday to trap Big Foot, said 15 men have quit since the tracks were found.

"The men said they quit because it was too far out to drive," Wallace reported. "But I think most of them were just plain scared."

California is habitat in which hoaxes sometimes thrive for years. But Osgood Klinkus, the phantom student of Jordan High School in Long Beach, lasted only a year.

George was dreamed up in May 1957, when students with some faculty connivance enrolled him in school and started turning in test papers marked with his name. George sometimes got higher grades than his ghostwriters did.

The school expelled George once for smoking, but he came back, only to be indefinitely suspended again last May because he got married. The full military ceremony, with George wearing a mask and his bride wearing a sheepish grin, was conducted, arch of crossed sabres and all, by Reserve Officer Training Corps at the school.

Teachers Fooled By Imaginary Student

When the hoax was exposed, some teachers refused to believe it. But Principal Milton Sager, with the air of a man who has suffered through too long a joke, said George's suspension isn't enough. "I'd be happy to attend his funeral," the principal sighed.

Michigan's Little Blue Man from outer space has been retired, too.

Last April, police in Huron County received frequent reports about an apparition in a glowing blue space suit and flashing space helmet. The spaceman was mostly described as small, down to 2 feet in height, as a matter of fact. But as the number of sightings grew, so did the spaceman.

His height was approaching 6 feet 6, and mothers in isolated rural homes were keeping their children indoors when police at last captured the Little Blue Man.

He turned out to be a medium-sized, 22-year-old earthling named Jerry Sprague. Two friends were also picked up by police. Jerry, though, was the only Blue Man among them, because his space suit was really his union suit, painted with luminous blue paint.

Jerry also wore a blue cape, made from a bed sheet; a blue cloth mask and a football helmet covered with a plastic bubble and equipped with battery-powered Christmas tree lights hooked up to flash intermittently.

A blue hoax from head to toe, Jerry would leap out on lonely country roads and dance in front of approaching cars. He said he was inspired by a song, "The Little Blue Man," which was popular at the time.

Jerry was released by the authorities, who frankly didn't know what to charge him with. He immediately came back to earth by first marrying and then volunteering for the draft. The ex-spaceman is an infantryman now.

Jerry's mischief lasted about a month, which is considerably below par for a good, solid hoax. It was a nice try, but it lacked the sweep and grandeur of a classic hoax. There was only one of them in 1958.

The classic hoax is pulled on everybody in a given area, which may be a town or, in a few magnificent deceptions, an entire country. Then, slowly, with the finesse of the artist he is, the master hoaxer lets his duped audience in on the joke... Indignant police investigate... The hoaxer is caught (he usually helps considerably by giving himself up)... The people he bamboozled are outraged... But finally they laugh at themselves.

Unlike craven, minor-league hoaxers, the truly great hoaxer never says he's sorry.

Such a hoaxer is Frank Russell of Biggleswade, England, whose flying saucer stunt was the best of 1958.

For almost a year, Russell had Biggleswade's 5,394 citizens convinced that Martians were about to drop in on them.

Ever since a night in the summer of 1957, when the first saucer was spotted, gullible Biggleswade - waited for the first favorite earth village. Discreet inquiries into the matter were begun by high British officials.

Scores of eyewitnesses saw the saucer. Space-age home guard patrols were established to be ready in case the Martians dropped in to visit. The only unexcited Biggleswadens were TV fans who complained that the interplanetary vehicle interfered with reception.

Saucer in the Sky Was Spectacular

The saucer put on frequent and spectacular shows. It was round and silver, with lighted portholes. After hovering over the village for about four minutes, it would suddenly shoot off into space in a shower of sparks.

For almost a year, the saucer spotting went on. Then into Biggleswade came John Whitworth, a 35-year-old haberdasher who was a serious student of flying saucers.

Whitworth had been interested in the celestial visitors for years. The high point of his pre-Biggleswade investigations came one day when a man walked into Whitworth's shop and said he was from Mars.

"He had a very high forehead," Whitworth recalls, "and he spoke about flying saucers. A year later, he appeared in the shop again. During the intervening period there were reports of flying saucers over Bedfordshire (the county, some 40 miles north of London, where Biggleswade is situated).

"Each time he left my shop he vanished quickly. I couldn't find him. People said he might have de-materialized. But how could he. I shook his hand. It was warm."

Whitworth couldn't resist an on-the-scene investigation in Biggleswade. So, last spring, he went to the town that had become the flying saucer capital of Great Britain.

Whitworth looked around for local volunteers to aid him in his investigation. Frank Russell, tongue in check, promptly stepped forward.

"I went out with him on missions to look for 'The Thing'," Russell said. "But finally he found out that I had made high-flying kites, and put two and two together. He challenged me - and I confessed."

Now somewhat disillusioned, Whitworth has given up his interest in flying saucers. Though he still believes there may be "something to them," he adds: "I don't want anything more to do with them. I believe many of these strange happenings are hoaxes and the culprits would seem to be organized on a national scale."

Russell, an amateur inventor who works as a factory hand in an engineering firm, put a great deal of effort and ingenuity into his hoax.

His plot began, he says, when he heard that Biggleswade officials were looking around for ideas to attract tourists. Russell put his idea to two friends, Jim Bates, 40, a member of the town council, and another man who still insists upon anonymity.



New York Daily News

New York Daily News article January 4, 1959

("Peter," Russell explains, "doesn't want to be exposed because his wife thought the whole episode was downright ridiculous. You see, he might cop it if she found out that he was involved.")

Russell, who has built a successful one-man submarine and patented an underwater harpoon gun, set to work on his flying saucer, which cost him about \$14. (He had built a small one, some years before, for his two children, Roy, 11, and Sandra, 9.)

He made a cone-shaped wire frame and covered it with aluminum paper, in which he cut portholes. The contraption was equipped with lights inside and out. A weather balloon, filled with hydrogen Russell got from his factory, took the saucer up to a height of 600 feet.

Underneath the saucer was a rod, lighted on both ends and hooked up to a clock works. Attached to one end of the rod was a small rocket. An ingenious timing mechanism made the saucer light up for four and a half minutes, then black out. Five seconds later, a gadget set off the rocket - and the saucer looked as if it was speeding off into space.

"I chose dark nights, and it really looked very effective," Russell recalls with pride.

"Once, we had just got the balloon airborne when we heard a car coming. At the moment the clouds cleared and the moon shone on the balloon.

"The car stopped and the driver got out. He looked up at the moon and then stared at the silver object above. Honestly, I've never seen a bloke jump into a car so fast. I'll swear he took the next corner on two wheels."

After he revealed himself as the pilot of the saucer, some grouches complained to the Ministry of Civil Aviation that Russell had been cluttering up the airways and should be prosecuted. Ministry officials conferred, but soon dropped the case without even investigating.

"I have not heard one word of complaint," Russell says today. "Everyone regards it as a good laugh."

This isn't exactly true. Ask someone in Biggleswade whether they believe in flying saucers and you get an icy stare and a thundering "No!"

Most Biggleswadens, however, thoroughly enjoyed the last flight of Russell's saucer. It was at Biggleswade's summer festival and even Russell's wife, who had not been exactly enthusiastic about his prank, came around.

"It was very impressive," she says.

Saucer-Spoofers Have Another Hoax Plan

Russell himself is unrepentant. Winking roguishly, he recently confided, "I have something else up my sleeve. But I'm not telling what it is."

Whatever Russell is planning this time, it had better be good, for old Biggleswade just isn't a naive as it was.

The other day a reporter visited Biggleswade to see how the town is reacting from being hoaxed. He'll never be the same, either. Here's his report:

"I walked into the White Hart Inn, where I met the proprietor, a level-eyed, down-to-earth man named George Brixey.

"As I sipped a drink, George introduced me to his pet boxer dog, Beau Geste, who, it seems, was chased by a herd of cows when he was a pup.

“Frightened him so much that he forgot how to bark,” said George, adding in a matter-of-fact voice: “Now he moos - just like a cow.”

“I smiled, bleakly.

“You don’t believe me?” George asked. ‘Come on, Beau... come on, boy. What did the moo cow say, boy? What did the moo cow say, boy? What did the moo cow say?’

“Beau Geste opened a sad eye. He raised his huge head up.

“And he mooed! So help me - he mooed!”

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Found Him! Watch in Horror as Bigfoot Hunters Pass Off a Human Corpse as a Sasquatch Body



deadbigfootfeature

Now listen, I'm the kind of guy who, when given a fair choice, wants to believe the paranormal answer to a question over the logical one. I like living in a world where the skeptics don't have all the answers, and because of that, I've been labeled everything from a mystery monger to a blind believer. But every once in awhile I'll stumble onto a story with such a blatantly obvious answer that even my will to believe can't overcome it.

Today, I found one of those stories, and it was one of the most surreal experiences I've ever had on social media.

Before I continue, I should warn you that the images you're about to see are fairly graphic, and kind of gross. So, you know, don't go eating an Arby's melt while you read this, ok?

While browsing through my Facebook feed this morning (feel free to friend request me), a post in a private group that I belong to caught my eye and made me scroll back. I won't name the group (as surreal as this whole thing is, I don't believe they deserve to be fodder for a skeptic assault), but they're dedicated exclusively to the study and appreciation of Bigfoot, and have some pretty strict rules they abide by. One of those rules is no swearing, and it's one that I promptly broke by typing, "holy shit..."

In a post titled "Possible Bigfoot Bones Found Near Grants Pass, Oregon", a man claims to have stumbled upon the remains of a Sasquatch while on a hunting trip near the Illinois River.

Here's the original text:

I was contacted by a man in Oregon named Craig who had these pictures sent to his phone by his former brother in law who was out hunting with a friend in Grants Pass along the Illinois river a few years back when they discovered these bones near the river.

The two hunters were amazed by the size of the feet and length of the leg bones. They thought at the time they might be a big human or maybe even bigfoot. They called the local game wardens who came up to inspect the find. The hunters said that within an hour or so 2 black suburban pulled up and these men

confiscated the bones and told everyone there they never saw this "It didn't Happen" Just for get about it. They also confiscated their cell phones but didn't know they had already sent the pictures to Craig and other family members.

It's a pretty lofty claim, and one we've heard a half a dozen times before, but these photos were different. Mainly because the so-called Bigfoot leg was wearing a sock. These guys had found a dead dude. At least that's what it looked like to me. It appeared so obvious to me that they had found a corpse that I was having a really hard time believing that this story had not only been posted to **two separate blogs** (if not more), but that no one had even approached the idea that this might not be a Bigfoot.

In case you doubt me, and in the interest of presenting the whole story, here's the images that were attached to the post. Eat lunch at your own risk.

IT GETS GROSS BELOW THIS LINE

I'M WARNING YOU!

YOU ASKED FOR IT!

SAY GOODBYE TO DINNER!



deadguysfoot



Looks a lot like tattered pants to me...

See what I mean? From what looks to be a lone tube sock to the what appears to be the tattered remains of pants draped along the exposed leg bones, there's very little doubt in my mind that we're looking at a dead guy. Maybe a bear, if he just

ate someone. The Bigfoot hunters, though? They couldn't be convinced.

At least Shane was with me.

As I did a bit of digging, I found that the story was actually a bit over a year old, and never appeared to get much press at the time, which is surprising considering the claims. Then again, it took a couple years for the Roswell Slides people to turn a dead kid into an money-making extraterrestrial sideshow, so we might still see a press conference about hobo bones later this year.

Here comes Beth, positing that it might be a bear. Sure, maybe that will be easier for the



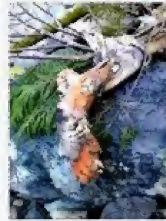
"Bigfoot" is wearing a sock?

Greg Newkirk Holy crap, that's a dead guy. Look at the foot. It even has pants around the decaying leg bone. Bigfoot doesn't wear clothes, last I remember. Someone just posted pictures of a very rotten bottom half of a man's corpse in here.
43 mins · Edited · Like · 1

Shane Bradbury I agree with Greg. Not a Bigfoot.
44 mins · Like

[Redacted] Looking at the pictures in the article, I see no clothing, and it looks too large to be a mans foot. IMHO.
38 mins · Edited · Like

Greg Newkirk You're kidding me, the thing is wearing pants and that's totally a rotten foot. It's wearing a sock, for crying out loud.



don't-believe-it

Bigfoot hunters to swallow. It's gotta be, right?

Nope! They pretty much ignored me, but Beth? Screw her. Why is she even there?!

Watching Sasquatch hunters pass off a badly decayed human corpse (poooooossibly a bear that just ate someone) as a Bigfoot body is even a bit

too much of a stretch for me, and that's coming from someone who believes Bigfoot is a ghost.

So what do you think? Did these hunters find a human corpse in the Oregon forest, or did Bigfoot suddenly start wearing tube socks and Dickies? Have you seen a paranormal claim that you just couldn't wrap your head around? We want to hear from you! , , or get a conversation started in the comments below!

Greg Newkirk

25 Comments

Greg Newkirk Look at the rotten pants hanging off of the leg bone!
41 mins · Like · 1

Shane Bradbury Yep dead dude.
20 mins · Like

Shane Bradbury Not a Bigfoot.
20 mins · Like

[Redacted] Could be like a cow hide when decaying. Perhaps it's skin in the process of decay and turned leathery. Or.. It could be a big human lol
6 mins · Like · 1

[Redacted] Thing that side tracks you, is the story if true that goes with it. Why would they be told to forget ever seeing it etc.
Just now · Like

Write a comment...

still-dont-believe-it

[Redacted] I wrote this comment on BFRO. I have heard that bigfoot buries their dead. Well is anybody checking the water for bones? If bones have not been discovered on land do you think they drop their dead in the water. Their habitat revolves around food, shelter and lakes and water.
1 hr · Like · 1

Beth [Redacted] It's decaying flesh on the foot of a bear. Not a bigfoot or a human.
1 hr · Like · 2

[Redacted] Are you the one doing the research Beth? give it up. There is nothing wrong with being sceptical but if you do not believe why are you a member?
Just now · Like

Write a comment...

wow-still-dont-believe-it

Ignacio [Redacted] Why u guys h8'n on Big Foot sportin some Levis!
Just now · Unlike · 1

ignacio

Its a fucking bigfoot, OK

1. Jamie Thomas

06/05/2015 at 1:21 AM

Inherit belief will never stand up to solid scrutiny. Though this is really pushing the envelope. Wow.....

• Carlos Montiago

06/05/2015 at 1:26 AM

2. Jamie Thomas

06/05/2015 at 1:27 AM

It's hard to tell the actual size of the foot as there is no frame of reference usable in the close up foot shot.

3. Aimee Colvin

06/05/2015 at 1:47 AM

Om nom nom...Arby's melt.

- Aimee Colvin

06/05/2015 at 1:57 AM

As for the foot...it's a perfectly normal but gross human foot in a sock.

4. Corey Schjoth

06/05/2015 at 2:49 AM

Great story! I do find it disturbing that people are so willing to believe in something that when they are confronted with obvious facts to the contrary that they get pissed that you don't believe it and make excuses to why you are wrong. These people have such a closed mind and can't be reached and is one of the biggest problems to this subject.

5. zazz

06/04/2015 at 8:37 PM

what in the actual fuck?

- Greg Newkirk

06/04/2015 at 9:44 PM

6. SOMEGUY7893

06/05/2015 at 2:47 AM

And this is why you should always look at these things skeptically, because one day you might confirmation bias this hard. Like I honestly believe in the paranormal and ET but I always try to find a real world explanation first, choosing not to causes you to "ignore" obvious things like this.

7. Ken Summers

06/05/2015 at 9:58 AM

I keep wanting to ask if the big black truck had "coroner" on the side of it. lol

8. Yasmin

06/05/2015 at 3:08 AM

What is there here to speculate about? Unless Bigfoot went shopping at his local retailer, this here is a dead guy. Which is a little screwed up considering...

9. Marcy Smith

06/05/2015 at 3:31 PM

Omg what is wrong with those people? It's human remains. This is like that show with the two guys metal detecting...."OMG! I found a button from Billy the Kid's coat cause he walked past here once!"

10. JAMES FRANCO

06/05/2015 at 9:20 AM

Hey, so this is actually a bear. The hind paws of the bear look human when they are decomposing. The "sock" you mentioned is actually the bears skin sloughing off. The fish and game guys quickly realized it was a bear and took it away. In one shot the claws are clearly visible on the foot pad, and the center ball curve is seen in another picture. This is very clearly a bear and not a human. It's pretty normal to find bear remains when hiking in bear country, especially around hunting season.

- Greg Newkirk

06/05/2015 at 9:33 AM

James Franco, everyone.

I loved you in Spiderman.

- Christopher

08/17/2015 at 2:44 PM

@ GREG NEWKIRK, IF THIS IS A ACTUAL BEAR WHY WERE THE CELL PHONES TAKEN? YEAH THAT'S STANDARD PROCEDURE-NOT!

11. Dana Matthews

06/05/2015 at 10:35 AM

This is fucked up on so many levels...

12. rich

06/05/2015 at 1:05 PM

13. Shannon LeGro

06/06/2015 at 6:04 AM

I don't usually comment. I'm a lurker...but this is just another reason an apocalypse may be a good thing.

14. Ron R

06/06/2015 at 9:33 AM

The renaissance of "paranormal investigators" has pretty much allowed anyone with a video camera and/or website the ability to publish nonsense and this is more of it.

Give a stupid man an obsession and he can post for years. Teach him how to take photos and he will become an "investigator" who can make money on the gullible public. (The same goes for women.)

15. Eric Hoffman

06/08/2015 at 4:56 AM

Franco's right. A dead bear.

16. Dirk

06/09/2015 at 5:03 AM

Maybe Bigfoot killed a dude, took his clothes, then died. Case closed! Then again, maybe not....

17. John Bigfoot

07/15/2015 at 2:25 AM

Is Bigfoot being insensitive about the incident?

18. Kirsty

07/28/2015 at 9:57 AM

I feel really sorry for the poor guys family. They're probably sitting there wondering where their husband/father is while everyone is busy identifying his body as Bigfoot! I do believe it to be a human, you can definitely see the remains of a sock and trousers. Sending warm wishes from the UK. I wish you'd bring your travelling show over here!

19. Marcia

08/04/2015 at 12:12 PM

Wouldnt it be easy to prove? Forensic's would be helpful..looks human to me, but the one pic does look like claws coming out of the foot, BUT, could also be bone. Instead of guessing,why wouldnt anyone prove it one way or the other? Seems like a no brainer! Would love if it was the Big Guy...why wouldnt they check and be sure? Someone missing a family member?

20. Ray

08/10/2015 at 1:54 PM

Does anyone recall that people used to think that corpses (or corpses that were actually vampires) would continue to grow out their nails b/c as the skin decays it pulls away from the tips of fingers and toes, thus giving the appearance of new growth. That explains the long claws. This is definitely a dead human.

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Biggest diamond found in over a century adds \$150 million to mining company's value

wtkr.com

Posted 1:30 pm, November 19, 2015, by CNN WireUpdated at 01:32pm, November 19, 2015



LONDON — What better way to add luster to your mining shares than to unearth the world's second biggest diamond?

Shares in Lucara soared 32% after it unveiled a stone of 1,111 carats — which it says is the biggest gem quality diamond found in more than 100 years. The stock market move added about \$150 million to the value of the company.

"The significance of the recovery of a gem quality stone larger than 1,000 carats, the largest for more than a century and the continued recovery of high quality stones...cannot be overstated," said CEO William Lamb in a statement.

The stone was only found on Monday, and the company hasn't yet decided when or how to sell the stone into the market. And it's impossible to price at this stage, Lamb said on a conference call with investors.

"It's early days. We need to see how best to get the maximum value of the stone," he said, adding that he's already been inundated with emails from potential buyers.

The stone is too big for Lucara's own scanner so will probably go to the world's diamond polishing market in Antwerp, Belgium, to be assessed first.

Lucara also uncovered two "exceptional" white diamonds, estimated at 813 carats and 374 carats, at the same mine.

"It would not be the best strategy to put all three on the market right away," the CEO said.

The discoveries have transformed the Canadian company's fortunes. Its shares, which are listed in both Stockholm and Toronto, had lost 26% this year prior to the unprecedented finds. Friday's runaway gains wiped out almost all those losses.

Lucara says the diamond was found in its Karowe mine in the southern African nation of Botswana, which has been up and running since 2012.

The biggest of the three diamonds was found using the latest in recovery technology. With older equipment, Lamb said, it might have been missed and been ground up with waste stones.

The largest gem quality diamond was the 3,106 carat "Cullinan Diamond" found in South Africa in 1905. From that was cut the "First Star of Africa" which now adorns the Royal Scepter — one of the British crown jewels now on display at the Tower of London.

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Otherworldly moans

A c **Alavera howling** is a **human skull** of uncertain origin who allegedly caused misfortunes, **poltergeist type phenomena** and, above all-and this should be his name, "shouts" when it is moved from its place in a mansion. How the skull came to this place it is often the subject of colorful stories, which also explains why the skull not want to be buried. The most famous is a resident in **Bettiscombe Manor** (Dorset, UK). The tradition includes several versions of it. One of these states that in 1685 the owner of the house was a man named **Azariah Pinney** who participated in the Monmouth Rebellion to overthrow **King James II**.

After the failure of the revolt, **Pinney** was **banished to the island of Nevis**, a colony British in the West Indies. There he became a successful businessman by sugarcane. When he died in 1720, he left everything to his grandson, **Frederick John Pinney**, who grew up in Bettiscombe. However, when it traveled to Nevis he was horrified by the slavery system established in plantations and gave his inheritance to his cousin,



Bettiscombe howling Skull Manor, attributed to a West Indian slave. The table is behind it we see John Pinney, who, according to legend, took him to Britain.

John Praetor. **John Frederick** returned to Britain and brought to a black slave that before undertaking the trip had made him swear that he would be buried in his homeland. The slave died, but reneged Pinney and buried in the cemetery of Bettiscombe. Since then and for several weeks the dream of the inhabitants of the mansion was disturbed by groans, shouts and blows. Pinney exhumed the corpse and put it in the attic. Thereafter it ceased all **activity Paranormal I**.

It is not known why, but after several years the remains of slave only his skull, jaw devoid of retained. In **The Realm of Ghosts** (1964), Eric Maple recorded different stories about this skull. It was said that on several occasions in which they had tried to dispose of the mansion the whole region had suffered terrible consequences: a storm ravaged crops or livestock ill and died. Even one of the owners of the mansion had died shortly after trying to get rid of it. One of them had buried several meters deep, only to discover the next morning that the skull had risen from the grave and expect to be back home. Moreover, a housekeeper told a visitor in 1847 that the skull protect the **house from bad spirit s**. Maple interviewed an individual who remembered that as a child he had heard "the cries of the skull kept in the attic, which were more shrieks, like a mouse trapped".

This testimony was a little disconcerting, because until that time the general belief was that the skull just screamed when taken out of the house. Other locals mentioned a "chatter" from the loft where "they" (whose identity was left to the imagination of the listener) seemed to be bowling with the skull.



ON THE BACKGROUND OF PIT

In the house manor **Wardley Hall**, in the county of **Leicester** , the skull of the father **Ambrose Barlow** Catholic priest who was executed in 1641 for treason to the Crown remains. He

was beheaded and his head displayed on a pike remained in the Church of Manchester.

Francis Downes , a devout Catholic, bought it and kept it hidden in the house for fear that their beliefs were discovered. He hid it so well that it was not found until the mid-eighteenth century by **Matthew Moreton** , then owner of the mansion. One of his servants, believing that belonged to an animal, threw it into a pit filled with water.

A terrible storm broke loose as the owner of the house was informed by the servant of what he had done, he attributed the storm to the anger of the skull, so he drained the pit and returned to take her home. Tradition has it that whenever he tried to bury the lands and properties of the mansion were damaged. Furthermore, it appears indestructible, because despite being burned and even broken into pieces, is always found the next day in the lobby, intact and showing his **eternal grin**.



Skull Ambrose Barlow

BURTON AGNES HALL ... and the skull of Anne Griffith

Burton Agnes Hall , York County, holds the **skull of Anne Griffith** . Tradition says that Anne and her two sisters commissioned the construction of the house in the sixteenth century. Before it was finished, Anne was attacked by a group of robbers while walking in the immediate area. As a result of wounds, died five days later, but not before expressing his

desire that his skull was preserved within the walls of the mansion so that it can see completed. But her sisters they buried the corpse. Then they began to occur **mysterious noises** .

Her sisters exhumed the body and were very surprised to see that the skull was completely emaciated and separated from the body, despite the short time elapsed since the funeral. And seemed to smile ... **The skull** was placed in the house, but years later, when it was

inherited by the family **Bonynton** , this decided to get rid of it and buried. Soon the terrifying groans made them abandon their idea. A later owner decided emparedarla, so your current location is unknown. It is also said that the ghost of Anne each anniversary of his death appears.



CURIOSITY

A reluctant to be buried skull is preserved in **Higher Farm** in Chilton Cantelo, Somerset County. It is attributed to a certain **Theophilus Broome** , who died in 1670, after expressing his wish that his skull was preserved on the farm. All attempts to bury resulted in " **terrible sounds** indicative of deep disgust, "according to an inscription on the headstone.



DICKIE: The "pet" crybaby

Tunstead Farm , near Chapel-en-le-Frith, Derbyshire County, holds within its walls one **skull called Dickie** . A strange name, because tradition says belonged to a woman who was killed inside the house. Before he died he left word that he wanted his remains

repose forever inside. Over the years, the skeleton was lost until only the skull. It is said that **Dickie emits screams** when they drew not only the house, but when they get strange, when an animal sick or when someone in the family will die. Once he was stolen and taken to Disley and thieves had to endure so much **shouting and rattling** noises that they had no choice but to return home.

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ABOVE LEFT & CENTRE: The 'ghostly boots' photo and the spot where it was taken. ABOVE RIGHT: Boys in blue at the Emperor's Summer Palace.

Real boots

Regarding the "ghostly boots" behind the little girl [FT328:25], the location of the photograph is not Zushi as stated, but a little down the coast at Hayama. This is right next to the Summer Palace of the Emperor of Japan and, as you might expect, has

a sizable police presence. The 'ghost' is clearly one of Kanagawa's boys in blue who has wandered into shot.

I include a photo of the location, which shows that there is an incline down to the beach allowing for an unexpected approach from that direction. Also, as the cops' beat includes the beach, they are issued

with special boots for the sand. These boots and their blue shirts can be seen in the photo.

What is largely unknown in the West, however, is that the ghosts of deceased policemen exclusively guard the Japanese Emperor's Summer Palace.

Don Cake

by email

Saturday, July 18, 2015

The Briggs House Murder.

Little Murders



On December 7, 1883, Sadie Reigh went into the dining room of the Briggs House, one of Chicago's finest hotels, and fired four shots from a revolver, in rapid succession, at Head Waiter Patrick Kinsley. Sadie fled the hotel but was apprehended quickly. Two of her shots had hit their mark; Kinsley died the following day and Sadie Reigh was charged with murder.



Briggs House

Sadie told her story to the Chicago Police. She was a pantry girl at the Briggs House and had been friendly with another hotel employee named Mr. Delts. This friendship angered Patrick Kinsley who, Sadie alleged, had "an unnatural affection" for Delts. When Delts left the Briggs House, Kinsley accused Sadie of instigating his departure and spread malicious rumors that she and Delts had been improperly intimate. His stories were generally believed and Sadie had to endure taunts from the other female employees of the Briggs House. When she could endure it no longer, Sadie vowed to hire a lawyer on her next payday, and sue Kinsley for defamation of character. When payday rolled around, she had a change of heart and purchased a revolver instead. "I am a poor working girl," Sadie told police, "and all I have got is my honor, and I am going to defend that if I hang for it."

By March 1884, Sadie Reigh had become so sick that she appeared to be dying in her jail cell and was attended by a clergyman. She had no friends or family in Chicago but a private fund was established, supported by local newspapers, to raise money for Sadie's defense. Said one organizer, "Let every mother who would see her daughters safe, let every man and

every woman who would have virtue triumph over lust, show their faith by their works and contribute to the Sadie Reigh fund."

Sadie Reigh pled guilty to manslaughter and on April 29, 1884, Judge Elliot Anthony sentenced her to a year and a half in the penitentiary. It was reported that mitigating circumstances justified the light sentence.

Sources:

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"A Murder in a dining room." *National Police Gazette* 5 Jan 1884.

"Condensed News." *Daily Register* 3 Mar 1884.

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B.C. landscaper finds out he's the king of a tribe in Ghana

By Amy Judd

2015-11-20T14:05

globalnews.ca

November 20, 2015 2:05 pm

Updated: November 20, 2015 10:38 pm



A B.C. man is getting ready to go back to his home country of Ghana where he will be crowned king of a 6,000 person tribe in the south of the country.

Eric Manu, 32, has been living in B.C. for three years after marrying a

Canadian woman he met in Ghana. The couple now have a 10-month-old son.

Manu's uncle was previously the king of the Akan tribe, but he died in 2013. This July, Manu received a phone call telling him he had been chosen as his uncle's replacement.

"I wasn't really thinking that it was going to be me because I'm too young for that," said Manu. However, the community of chiefs and other officials decided Manu was the best person for the job.

Manu is still working as a landscaper in White Rock, but now plans to go to Ghana to become king and improve the lives of his tribe members. He also hopes to split his time between Ghana and Canada.

"I've learnt a lot about Canada and I really want to transform the life that Canada changed me to the people of Ghana," said Manu.

His wife will become queen, but traditionally the Akan tribe has a queen mother for the whole village.

"But the wife of a chief, she also becomes a queen of the king, of the chief," said Manu. "So she becomes the mother of all mothers of the village."

The Akan tribe's village is a centre for other villages, including a market and many



houses.

While he knows it will be a lot of work, Manu said he is excited about this opportunity.

“For a young guy like me, I am going to take a very huge responsibility to respond to disputes of land, disputes of

individuals in the community,” he said, adding that he will also oversee any political decisions for the village.

“For me to be an icon, people should look up to me, I think that it's a big responsibility for me, but I'm grateful for that because it's preparing me to be a mature man,” said Manu.

(+18) "Hyena Killing" The Cannibal of San Isidro

It is a socially rejected and legally sanctioned practice, individuals in Western societies, cases currently relate to extreme famine, criminals or people with deep psychological problems. Cannibalism is the act or practice of eating with members of their own species. Cannibalism may occur between members of many species, although more commonly associated with cannibalism, or humans who consume peers.

The "Cannibal" who ate the earth

It is one of the most mysterious cases of Argentina's criminal history. 35 years ago, a criminal killed three to five beautiful women and attacked many others. They never caught. He surprised his victims in dark wasteland of San Isidro. The he raped, strangled and body parts tore them to bits. The experts defined it as a sexual sadist. All women were attacked young, pretty and blonde. Only death could stop the serial murderer, believing that was shot by the police, but was never identified. He had great athleticism.

His pursuers had given up on the earth swallow him. Little is known of fierce serial murderer who in 1972 attacked young, cute and blond women. None of them saw his face accurately. No one knew his name. The press called it in different ways: satyr, degenerate, amoral mad, perverse, murderous maniac or hyena. For the police, it was the "Cannibal of San Isidro."



The mysterious murderer will be awarded three to five crimes and many other attacks on young people. Lurked at night, stops near the bus line 60. surprised his victims in vacant or vacant lots. The submitted from behind, he covered their mouth, left unconscious with a blow and violated. In the end, the action culminated in excruciating rite mordiscones tore them to different parts of the body.

"He killed for pleasure, as the 'Shorty Orejudo' or Robledo Puch. That's typical

of a serial murderer who believes that humans are an object of their property, their private parts. Excitement felt when he killed without mercy. He undid his bestial force necks. Is the type of predatory murderers, "he told the coroner Osvaldo Raffo, who investigated the hunt" Cannibal ".

Criminologists compiled a denture based on the bites that left in the body of their victims. So they eliminated 24 suspects, after comparing the teeth. "The bites were very violent," recalls Raffo.

The case occupied much space in the crime pages of the time, but in November 1972 he lost weight media for the return of Juan Domingo Peron to the country from exile.



The most prominent case occurred on Wednesday, November 23, 1972. The victim was Diana Goldstein, 23. She was blond, tall, cute, blue eyes, studied journalism and worked at the mattress factory of his father. The he found a newspaper boy in the garden of a neighbor of the victim, including roses and cypresses, in a villa of Emilio Mitre 134, in Martinez.

The girl had a red sweater and black skirt torn and missing body parts. The autopsy, made by Raffo, determined that he was strangled after being raped a few blocks from where the body was found. He was missing a third of the tongue, lip, cheek part of a skin of the right hand, neck and tip of the nose. His father was reported missing last night.

"It was a hippie, liked to sing at parties, dressed in outlandish way," said a neighbor. At first, the police arrested four alleged former lovers girl: one of them posed as pianist on a cruise that she made to Rio de Janeiro. They were released. It was not a crime of passion; they were in the presence of a serial murderer who killed for periods, respecting what criminologists call the stage of "cool-off" or cooling.

"By the declaration of one of his beautiful victims, who escaped his fierce claws, the subject had already dealt amoral barbaric attacks women from the north", published by the newspaper La Razon then. One woman who escaped said that he was attacked in the Maipú Avenue, just meters from the bus stop. He said that the aggressor, I barely saw in the dark, aquiline tenianariz, haggard eyes and was slicked back. A bus driver saw a similar passenger sitting next to women and harassed. Before biting, alienated she covered her mouth with his meaty hands. "His fingers smelled bad, so we suspect that it was a dump," said a police source.

According to investigators, the murderer was strong, athletic impeccable state, developed a tough job, work until 23 because the attacks occurred after that time and chased the victims vacant. But the murderer disappeared. They believe that the police struck. There is only one certainty: the serial murderers kill only stop when they're dead.

This may interest you: Serial Murderers, David Berkowitz, the "Son of Sam"

San Isidro, a hunting ground. San Isidro area was also a hunting ground for another serial murderer feared Argentine Francisco Antonio Laureana, the craftsman who killed him, in 1975, eleven women and girls and attacked many others. The criminal, who had been a seminarian in Corrientes, began his hunt in a religious school where he raped and hanged himself with a rope ladder from a religious.

The murderer chose victims who were sunning in the villas. "The predator was lurking from outside and the blow at the slightest carelessness. Attacked Wednesday and Thursday at 18. Like any serial, lived a cooling step between each crime, "said Osvaldo Raffo, who investigated Laureana.

Before leaving home, the murderer told his wife to take care of his three children: "Do not bring the kids to the street because many walk circling degenerate". Laureana killed choking, strangling, shooting. Each victim an object, which he kept in a boot is carried. He left no traces and sometimes returned to the scene to remember it. In one attack, when leaving a house, a man saw him. The he shot him. Survivor testimony served to make an identikit. When police asked the witness if he could identify the murderer, he replied: "That face I will never forget in my life."

To catch hooks they put several policemen with blonde wig and women sunbathing in pools. He never bit him. His last attack was never consummated: a girl saw him like identikit was stuck on the refrigerator and told her mother. The woman pretended to call her husband and murderer, smiling, pulled slowly. He was shot by police when he was hiding in a chicken coop before being discovered by a dog. On site, they found two hens strangled.

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'Cavemen' lovers found living in Italy mountains

Patrick Browne · 4 Nov 2015, 10:30

Published: 04 Nov 2015 10:30
GMT+01:00

An Italian couple, suspected of seeking to shun the modern world, were found huddled together on a bed of sticks under an overhanging rock on a mountain, having survived off berries for days.

The 50-year-old man and his 24-year-old girlfriend were found on Monday halfway up a mountain overlooking the town of Moggio Udinese, in north east Italy, with just their sleeping bags and

a circular stone fireplace to stave off the chills of the incoming winter.

They "went into the wild" six months ago, and for the last two weeks have been living under the rock.

"I've worked here for 35 years but I've never seen anything like it," the head forest ranger for Moggio Udinese told The Local.

"Of course, Italy's mountains are very charming and so sometimes people do decide to go 'into the wild'."

The authorities searched the area after rumours had begun to circulate in Moggio Udinese about a "strange couple" who were living on the mountain.

A rescue team consisting of forest rangers and the local police set out to investigate on Monday morning.

"At the moment nighttime temperatures are below zero at that altitude," added the forest ranger.

"In spite of being out there so long they were healthy and in good spirits, if a bit cold and hungry."



Charming: The mountains above Moggio Udinese. Photo: Bernhardt Latzko/Flickr

The pair initially refused the help of the rescue team, but were eventually convinced to pack up their belongings, which included a small grill, their sleeping bags, some pans and some rags and head back to civilization.

After descending the 860 metres down to Moggio Udinese, they were given a check-up by medical

workers before being offered unlimited food and refreshments, which the hungry lovers wolfed down.

After taking in some much-needed nourishment, the couple were eager to get back to nature and announced they wanted to camp out on the banks of the Fella river which runs through the town.

But after the town's mayor intervened to offer them a bed for the night in a local barracks, the couple changed their mind.



Nice but too chilly to camp: the limpid waters of the Fella River. Photo: Johann Jaritz/Wikimedia

"They weren't hermits or primitive – they were just two people who had decided upon a certain lifestyle. One which they had been living for some time," the forest ranger said.

The couple had been living in the mountains for the last six months and had even given birth to a baby girl in an alpine hut in Portis di Venzone - 1,300 meters above sea level - on May 25th.

They entrusted their newborn child to extended family and headed back into the mountains, where they remained until Monday.

On Tuesday morning the man was reportedly convinced he could still realize his dream of building a cabin up in the mountains, where the couple could sit out the harsh alpine winter.

But in the end the couple, who were both unemployed before they decided to go and live in the mountains, relented and accepted the local civil protection unit's offer of a lift back to their hometown of Trieste.

"I'm not sure what their plans are – you can ask them if you can find them," the ranger said.

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Changing Sex in Victorian England - Beachcombing's Bizarre History Blog

strangehistory.net

Author: *Beach Combing* | in : *Modern* , *trackback*



james barry

Disaster in the Beachcombing household tonight. Little Miss B – at least that is who Beachcombing is blaming – left on the car reading light, allowing the battery to run down. The family is thus stranded in the middle of the Italian countryside in monsoon weather wondering whether a car that doesn't start will serve as a way out of their various work engagements tomorrow. Beachcombing has already decided to get up at 5.00 and do something heroic with the public transport system. Leaky buses, damp seats and a driver who thinks he's riding a stallion...

Now the mystery of James Barry that has been cracking away at Beachcombing's skull like a woodpecker.

Let Beachcombing start at the beginning.

James Barry (obit 1865) was one of Victorian England's finest surgeons. He graduated at Edinburgh in 1812 and then worked his way through the ranks of honour being bumped up and down by a quixotic combination of brilliance and temper. He travelled to all corners of the Empire including Canada and the Mediterranean, fought at least two duels and – surely his greatest achievement – shouted the loathsome Florence Nightingale down when they met in the Crimea. Barry sensibly stayed on horseback as he harangued the nasty old shrew.

An interesting life, certainly, but where is the mystery? Well, quite simply this manly, energetic individual was a woman.

The news leaked out when Barry was being prepared for burial and the British newspapers went wild with it.

Here was, after all, a news story that ticked all the boxes. There was the apparent contradiction that a woman could perform – against all the orthodoxies of the time – the role of a doctor to the point of excellence. There was the *frisson* of sexual and illicit excitement so dear to the Victorians – a bit of 'tickle my knee'. And there was perhaps too the vicarious affection for someone – from whatever gender or background – who had managed to get one over on 'the nobs'.

Rachel Holmes in her biography of James Barry – *Scanty Particulars* – describe Barry as an 'unsung hero' for his defence of the weak – women, slaves, soldier grunts etc – sensibly stressing this over the question of his disputed sex.

Beachcombing is usually suspicious when the words 'unsung hero' are employed not

least because they are typically a sign that later ages find in said 'hero' the virtues of their own age often against those of the past. However, there is the combination of the gruff and the decent in all our descriptions of Barry that make him attractive. In practical terms this meant a fiery character – perhaps made to seem worse by a shrill voice – mixed with an excellent bedside manner and an extraordinary dedication to the sick of all classes.

Beachcombing would certainly have given his bottom sovereign to have Barry as his md and Beachcombing *hates* doctors.

Holmes makes a strong case that James Barry was not, in fact, a man or woman. Brought up as Margaret Bulkley in Ireland, Barry likely had an intersex condition: testicular feminization syndrome is often mentioned in the literature in relation to him.

Today, of course, the tiny intersexual percentage of the population are given one gender by their parents – often tentatively – and are then encouraged to choose a possibly definite gender at the end of their teenage years, in part, on the basis of hormonal and physical changes.

What is remarkable about Barry is that, in an age when gender was firmly set in infancy – he rebelled against the role that had been chosen for him and became a man, opening up vistas that nineteenth-century women could not even dream of. All the signs are that the change over was sudden, planned and plotted for and that interestingly his mother aided and abetted him.

In other nineteenth-century cases, intersexuals tended to retreat into the gender they had grown up with: the only other example of a changeover known to Beachcombing was Gottlieb Göttlich (obit 1863) – born Marie Rosine Göttlich – who turned himself into a circus freak (for doctors) and lived off the proceeds.

Talk about a room of his/her own: Beachcombing can't help but thinking that Virginia Woolf should have done research on JB instead of wasting her afternoons on Orlando.

The picture above is an afterthought: Barry, naturally – his Irish face quite striking.

Beachcombing was wondering idly whether other men and women have hidden their gender for decades at a time or whether intersex individuals made dramatic changes in pre-modern times: drbeachcombing AT yahoo DOT com. There must be examples – escaping princes in skirts and male terrorists in hibabs don't count – but the only one that came to Beachcombing's mind was the fairy tale of the transsexual Irish abbot visited not so long ago on this blog.

Back to the car – it seems a neighbour may have some charging wires...

Dec 1, 2010: On women who hid their identity as men Paul R. put Beachcombing onto the story of Frank Woodhull 'found out' by American customs, while Steve W. introduced Beachcombing to Billy Tipton, jazz musician, whose children only learnt her true sex while

she lay dying! Immense thanks to Frank and Steve

Nov 23 2013: not the same thing but some historical transvestites that we'll visit sooner or later from Lucifer's own: I would like to mention one overlooked historical transvestite... crossdresser Edward Hyde 1st Governor of New Jersey 3rd Earl of Clarendon and his antics which are 100% documented and hilarious as well his portrait as well does its utmost to dispel any attempts absolve him let alone a alibi as well as kin to the 2nd Earl of Rochester ...possible relation to our libertine 3rd Earl of Rochester? and his infamous Shennagans second to none even to the Marquis de Sade....surely no one will let this infamous transvestite pass into history without a blog post! There's one more I forgot to mention the Chevalier d'Eon the cross dressing spy who managed to outlive the French Revolution ... Thanks Lucifer!

14 Mar 2015: Chris S writes in 'After reading Changing Sex in Victorian England, I did a cursory Google search for some character who was a man pretending to be a woman in Middlesex, England twixt the (HRC) 16th and 18th centuries. Searches only returned "women who pretended to be men to fight as soldiers". A sign of our times? Ignoring those, I did find one character without a military background. Marinus, a.k.a. Marina the Monk. Her father disguised her as a boy, and both entered a monastery. While staying at an inn, an innkeeper's daughter lusted after Marinus who wasn't interested. The daughter claims Marinus knocked her up, he refused to prove her innocence lest he jeopardize his monastic lifestyle. Sadly, Marinus was kicked out of the monastery, forced to adopt the child, (what?) and living in poverty as a single parent 'til his/her death. No one was the wiser 'til Marinus's death. On the bright side, she was granted sainthood. Further back in time are the Gallae, priests who severed their genitals in ecstatic states, dressing and acting as women for Cybele.' Thanks Chris!

- © 2015 Beachcombing's Bizarre History Blog

BNN Chief Budi Waseso wants to add giant arapaima fish to the tigers and piranhas at his crocodile guarded prison

jakarta.coconuts.co

By **Coconuts Jakarta** November 16, 2015 /15:04 WIB



National Narcotics Agency (BNN) Chief Budi Waseso made headlines around the world last week when he announced that he was planning to build a special prison for drug dealers on death row, located on a remote island that he would surround with thousands of crocodiles that would act as the jail's guards.

Other government officials were quick to say that Budi was just joking about the crocodiles, but then last Friday the BNN Chief

doubled down on his ridiculous plan, saying that he was considering adding tigers and piranha fish to his island prison zoo of doom.

But apparently Budi was still not satisfied with his deadly animal lineup. On Saturday he said that another ferocious fish from the Amazon, the giant arapaima, might also make a suitable guard for his dream jail.

"It seems to fit when placed in Indonesia," Budi said, as quoted by Tempo.

Unfortunately nobody seems to have told Budi that the arapaima fish would not, in fact, be a good fit for his prison. For several reasons. First, like piranhas, they are freshwater fish that would not survive in the saltwater surrounding a remote island in Indonesia. Second, they are not considered dangerous to humans and are in fact a major food source in the areas where they are usually found.

But Budi said one thing he likes about the arapaima is that, like crocodiles, they can't be bribed.

In addition to his fishy plans, the BNN Chief said that he was still researching and testing which types of crocodiles are the most aggressive and thus most suitable for his prison.

"There are many kinds [of crocodiles] in Papua, Sulawesi, Sumatra and in Java," Budi said. He then cited some more reason that crocodiles would make great prison guards, saying they are long-lived and resistant to disease and hunger.

"They can age over 100 years, so this is very effective," he said.

Frankly we can't wait to hear what animal Budi will add to his maniacal menagerie next. Bears? Tarantulas? Sharks with lasers attached to their heads?

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A Chinese millionaire bought 33,000 hairy crabs and released them into a river, and aquatic-life experts are appalled

Nov. 20, 2015, 10:08 AM 465,078
2015-11-20

businessinsider.com



This is not the man.

South China Morning Post

A mystery buyer in eastern China's Zhejiang province spent 1.2 million yuan, or \$188,660, buying hairy crabs and set them free in a local river, but the city's fisheries authority said the act — though well-intentioned — could have disastrous consequences on the aquatic ecosystem, a provincial newspaper reports.

Rumors began to circulate several days ago in Hangzhou that a group of men were buying up hairy crabs — an estimated 33,000 in total that weighed about 5 tons, according to the Qianjiang Evening Post.

The buyers paid cash and loaded the crabs into a van to release them in the Qiantang River. The wholesale market authority said they could not intervene because the buyer was not manipulating prices.

But the fisheries authority said that at this time of year crabs in the wild were migrating to lay eggs. Putting so many into the water would disrupt the migrating pattern, it said.

The crabs could also be carrying bacteria that the aquatic life had not been exposed to.

Read the original article on South China Morning Post. Enjoy the full SCMP experience here: [click here](#) to get your subscription offer with US\$38 gift voucher. Copyright 2015. Follow South China Morning Post on Twitter.

Comments

Dan Afrasiabi(URL)on Nov 20, 10:59 AM said:

The weirdest things happen in China!

Klem Kaddiddlehopperon Nov 20, 3:26 PM said:

@Dan Afrasiabi

He could have just dunked any one of the Kardashians in that river...

jjdomitrioon Nov 20, 11:43 PM said:

@Dan Afrasiabi

Lol.

황은교 on Nov 21, 3:44 AM said:

@Dan Afrasiabi

The weirdest things happen in 중국

GOP Donald on Nov 21, 9:57 AM said:

@Dan Afrasiabi:

Things are weirder in the US!

Dumb A\$\$ on Nov 20, 11:07 AM said:

If you've seen what's happened with Asian Carp then you know not to do something stupid like this. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9iLKbtZslsk>

KoltirasRipon Nov 21, 11:18 AM said:

@Dumb A\$\$

Some of the comments on that video make me wish even harder for a plague to wipe out everyone with an IQ of less than 110...

DrPepper on Nov 20, 11:47 AM said:

Some people have more money than common sense.

march21 on Nov 20, 12:30 PM said:

we don't know what would happen. So let's not criticize someone who spent his money on rescuing mute creatures rather than snort cocaine and bed prostitutes. I for one think this is a commendable act.

Tmanon Nov 20, 2:34 PM said:

@march21

He only did it for himself. Asian's culture (Bushism) believe that free one (animal) life to ask for fortune or favor from god -- people buying small live fish, bird, turtle, and in this case crab to release them -- Normally in small quantity, but this is stupid act -- Just a typical under educated, become rich, then try to buy fame with money

Righton Nov 20, 2:42 PM said:

@march21

Then you know know nothing about the spread of invasive species and the disastrous effect it can have on local species. If you wanted to save "mute" creatures as you put it, you can release them into their native habitat.

PuttingYouInYourPlace on Nov 20, 3:42 PM said:

@Right

Hold on their taylor swift. The crabs were native to the river, those particular crabs were not native to the river. They had fished them all out of there and they were going extinct so he thought to put some back in the river from other parts of china.

PuttingYouInYourPlace on Nov 20, 3:44 PM said:

@Right

Hold on there Taylor Swift. The crabs were not an invasive species. In fact the crabs are native to the river just wiped out. He brought them from other parts of china to restock the river they were over fished from.

Kai Parker on Nov 20, 4:44 PM said:

@Tman

HaHa! No, Asian culture does NOT practice "Bushism" - that's what 'Murican Republican conservitards practice!!! I think you meant Buddhism....

Da Maanon on Nov 20, 6:05 PM said:

@Tman: Totally stupid comment. You have an "under educated" view of Asian culture and lack of knowledge about Buddhism [also, you misspelled that word as "(Bushism)"].

bob.mcintyre.7140 on Nov 20, 1:06 PM

But manipulating genetic code is pure fucking genius...

BeenpostingasDHforacoupleofyears on Nov 20, 1:15 PM said:

Wonder if these gentlemen were affiliated with organized crime? Crabs feed on carrion . . . dead animals . . . dead bodies . . .

FUKUSHIMA on Nov 20, 1:17 PM said:

Fukushima!!

Who cares, we're all poisoned already.

Free Willy on Nov 20, 1:45 PM said:

Hmmm.... PETA needs to better educate the Chines Activists... I would have adopted one. Are they tasty tempura style?

Bull-pucky on Nov 20, 2:16 PM said:

@Free Willy:

No they are not like softshell she crab

Bull-pucky on Nov 20, 2:16 PM said:

@Free Willy

No they are not like softshell she crab

Pinto beanson on Nov 20, 2:42 PM said:

@Bull-pucky:

We heard you the first time.

Show non-Insider comments earlier in this conversation

fred333 on Nov 20, 2:13 PM said:

The experts are always blah blahing over something. Meanwhile, the Africanized killer bees continue to spread east across the US and the DEA continues to spray herbicide from the air to get at illegal pot plants.

joao vianna on Nov 20, 8:14 PM said:

@fred333

Believe me, luck you to have Africanized bees spreading across the US! Your wild (domesticated) bee is doomed and can no longer live in a free state without getting

sick. No wonder truckloads of bees are transported across US to pollinate the different crops throughout the year. In Brazil we got used to these Africanized bees and we don't even hear about them.

Bad Habito Nov 20, 8:44 PM said:

@fred333

Um..... wrong on both counts. "Killer Bees" have interbred with standard honey bees and are no longer a danger. The DEA has not conducted aerial spraying of marijuana plots since the late 1980's. And what do either of these things have to do with the intentional introduction of a potentially invasive species into an unfamiliar environment? Not to mention the imbecilic implication that you believe a government, or even a person, is only capable of focusing on one or two goals at any given time. Multitasking..... you should learn about it.

jeff1120 on Nov 20, 2:23 PM said:

This is not the man and these are not the hairy crabs. As a matter of fact they aren't even live hairy crabs...or live...or crabs but DO YOU SEE HOW CHINESE THAT DUDE LOOKS AMIRIT???

Blackshield67 on Nov 20, 2:24 PM said:

Wonder who supplied the crazy people with the capital for these things ??

TimZZZZZZ on Nov 20, 2:41 PM said:

Where does one buy 33,000 "hairy crabs"?

Yummy on Nov 20, 3:01 PM said:

"Recently, China introduced vending machines to sell this species of crab in the subways.[17] The crabs are stored at 5 °C (41 °F), which induces a sleepy state of hibernation. The prices of the crabs range from around \$1.50 to \$7.00 (USD)"- wiki.... Cheaper than an Aquafina.... Channeling Moor's Roger and Me.... Food or Pets!

hm10284 on Nov 20, 3:22 PM said:

watch china uncensored if you really want to see weird and disturbing things that happen in china

russell santangelo on Nov 20, 3:28 PM said:

First time I ever heard of someone in China being concerned with the environment or ecology.

Cat2 on Nov 20, 11:17 PM said:

@russell santangelo

No. Most likely, this is an act of 'relieving sufferings of the animal in order to buy good karma, fortune for your self'; kind of like paying forward except with animals only; this concept is from Buddhism. Some want concerned with environment or ecology isn't that stupid.

Terry487 on Nov 20, 3:29 PM said:

It's like releasing 33 thousand people into a hallway. The things may end up just starving to death and killing each other once food supplies diminish.

MrTwobiton Nov 20, 3:54 PM said:

5 Tons in a Van? More like a 24ft moving van.

Galaneon Nov 20, 3:58 PM said:

Animal rights activists and vegans. Just as stupid in China as in the USA.

xmzon Nov 20, 4:09 PM said:

@Galane

Hiw do you know someone is vegan? Dont worry they will tell you every 5 frakin mins

Slingwell Slugwellon Nov 21, 3:14 AM said:

@xmz

So, you mean we tell you we're vegan about the same number of times you shove steaks and burgers in our faces to taunt us.

xmzon Nov 20, 4:08 PM said:

This is just like the student activists that released hundreds of test lab animals into the wild....they were all dead within 20 feet of the release point. They had never been out of the lab...idiots

ThinkBeforeYouSpeakon Nov 20, 4:29 PM said:

China Uncensored is a racist and hateful group that is sponsored by a death cult called falon gong. The death cult got banned from China and now is spreading racist messages about Asians

Bad Habiton Nov 20, 8:49 PM said:

@ThinkBeforeYouSpeak

Or, at least, that's what the Chinese government has told you to believe.....

I, however, have NEVER seen anything to indicate that, but I *DO* remember Tienanmen Square.

Yhuzanon Nov 20, 4:45 PM said:

"... but the city's fisheries authority said the act — though well-intentioned — could have disastrous consequences ..." What were the good intentions? Any background or explanation to the "well intentions"?

Sam19670206on Nov 20, 4:58 PM said:

Why can't you give the space to small businesses for free, what a waste of money for a 16-year-old building. By this standard, there will few buildings left in the US.

Bad Habiton Nov 20, 8:51 PM said:

@Sam19670206

What the fvck are you talking about? What does this have to do with a massive release of crabs in a Chinese river?

Fvcking idiot.

Reply

Slingwell Slugwellon Nov 21, 3:23 AM said:

@Bad Habit

Why is he a "fvcking idiot"? Because he posted his comment on the wrong board? If you must insult people, at least reserve your insults for real idiots, not for people who just made a mistake.

luke.schneider.549 on Nov 20, 4:59 PM said:

And we stock trout and salmon in our rivers, so what's the difference other than its not an inefficient State-run monopoly doing the stocking.

Slingwell Slugwell on Nov 21, 3:20 AM said:

@luke.schneider.549

So, you think it's OK for anybody to release anything into the wild? At least, we hope that the "state run monopolies" know what they're doing, although they screw up often enough.

lovebug on Nov 20, 4:59 PM said:

Street Vendor Trucks called "No MSG, Secret Herbs and Spices Recipes. All Freshly caught Hairy crab without shelled".

Menu of the Day: Cheesy Crab string fries (Appetizers), Famous Baked Kung Fu Crabs, Fried Ninja Crabs Crepe, House special Seafood udon noodle with crab and Seafood rice.

Come on down and get it while it last. LOL

Erik Eriksen on Nov 20, 5:16 PM said:

why are the idiots at BI re-posting this drivel?

Joe Jonason on Nov 20, 5:21 PM said:

Beat all the chemicals Chinese manufacturers are dumping in the river.

Master Kush on Nov 20, 5:23 PM said:

My town if full of illegals from all over the place. They do not want to assimilate. They all get food stamps and free lunches at school. The do not speak English. They suck the USA and laugh.

mike alcorn on Nov 20, 6:35 PM said:

Well, after a week in a Singapore bordello I went swimming and released at least this many crabs into the water and all I felt was better

toberton on Nov 20, 6:41 PM said:

A man paid that much to get hairy crabs?

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November 19, 2015 1:31 PM



Pope Francis (C) is pictured during his weekly general audience in St Peter's square on November 18, 2015 at the Vatican

Pope Francis (C) is pictured during his weekly general audience in St Peter's square on November 18, 2015 at the Vatican (AFP Photo/Andreas Solaro)

Vatican City (AFP) - Christmas festivities will seem empty in a world which has chosen "war and hate", Pope Francis said Thursday.

"Christmas is approaching: there will be lights, parties, Christmas trees and nativity scenes ... it's all a charade. The world continues

to go to war. The world has not chosen a peaceful path," he said in a sermon.

"There are wars today everywhere, and hate," he said after the worst terror attack in French history, the bombing of a Russian airliner, a double suicide bombing in Lebanon, and a series of other deadly strikes.

"We should ask for the grace to weep for this world, which does not recognise the path to peace. To weep for those who live for war and have the cynicism to deny it," the Argentine pontiff said, adding: "God weeps, Jesus weeps".

The sermon threw a shadow over the start of the festive season at the Vatican, where a giant Christmas tree was unveiled.

The 25-metre (82-foot) high pine hails from former pope Benedict XVI's homeland, the German state of Bavaria.

The tree, which will be decorated in time for the start of the Vatican's Holy Year on December 8, will be festooned with ornaments made by children from cancer wards in hospitals across Italy.

This year's nativity scene will be made up of 24 life-size figures, sculpted from wood and hand-painted.

In a nod to Pope Francis's humble style, alongside the figures from the story of Jesus's birth will be sculptures of ordinary people, including a man supporting an elderly person in need.

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Yahoo - ABC News Network

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A Clever Rat. 1903.

A Clever Rat. 1903. Posted by metan on May 10, 2012 Posted in: Critters , old newspapers . Tagged: 1903 , bear , history , news , rat , sketching . 18 Comments Since I am doing a music post today that I am sure will completely fail to stir the interest of at least one of my readers, I am adding an article purely for his interest alone... you know who you are sir... ;) Of course this story is quite a cute one so I think you might all get a smile out of it. I expect that once all were returned safely home from this little sketching excursion in 1903, the brave rat was richly rewarded with whatever rats love the most. Of course the article doesn't specify that the rat ran faster than the bear so I can only assume it made it home safely! Related Plague costume. 1903. In "old newspapers" I'm wondering where the day went. In "music" Drought in Africa, 1859. In "Bushwa" Posts navigation ← I'm wondering where the day went. Tropical tale of the jungle. 1924. →

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18 comments on "A Clever Rat. 1903."

1. rogersachar on May 10, 2012 at 12:40 pm said:

Love the story! Can I repost it on my site, forgottenstories.net?

• metan on May 10, 2012 at 4:21 pm said:

Certainly! As long as you include a link back here. Thanks for asking :)

• metan on May 10, 2012 at 4:45 pm said:

Also, Trove still owns the article so if you are reproducing it please ad their article link at the bottom too. Thanks! :)

2. lorddavidprosser on May 10, 2012 at 3:14 pm said:

I'm refusing to rise to the bait as regards the song but who could resist a nice little rat story? Well, certainly not my wife that's for sure. I always maintained that rats are extremely intelligent animals and I hope that particular one got it's just reward. However they say there's an exception to every rule don't they. I think I have found it / her. Though by far the smarter of the two original rats (sorry Penny) Amy did clamber up her cage and bit my finger yet when I turned round there was no bear.Perhaps I was the subject of a rat joke I don't quite understand?

ps I lied. Music not my cup of tea this time since I can't understand what they're saying and it sounds very much like Rap music. Be fair, you have to make allowances for my age. Beethoven is still high in the charts where I am. Gotta say though I love Adele and Duffy, Snow Patrol and a new one by Simple Minds.

• metan on May 10, 2012 at 4:41 pm said:

I understand that the music may not be to your taste, the Man of the House is equally unimpressed with anything of that ilk. While the kids and I are jumping around the house with the music up loud he is retiring to the man cave in the hopes that we all shut up soon.

When you were nipped by Amy was there a ratlike titter from Penny? Maybe she

did like the music and was showing her annoyance at it being turned off ;)

■ lorddavidprosser on May 10, 2012 at 4:51 pm said:

No ratlike titter from Penny (she loves her daddy- the one with chocolate) just an almighty squeal from himself as I ran to get a bandage to stem the flow of blood before I fainted.

■ metan on May 10, 2012 at 8:32 pm said:

That is why you didn't hear the titter, it was drowned out by your girly scream ;) They have the taste of blood now...da na...da na...da na da na da na... (any excuse for Jaws music)

3. acflory on May 10, 2012 at 8:20 pm said:

Imao – just wait until Bernie is a little older Daud. If she learns from Amy then you're in trouble :p

Gorgeous story Metan. I'm not a rat-person like Daud but I'm a sucker for any kind of 'animal saves human' type story :D

• metan on May 10, 2012 at 8:37 pm said:

I doubt there is a human that can resist an animal hero story, I don't think I have ever heard of a rat being the hero before though. They are cute though. :)

■ acflory on May 10, 2012 at 9:42 pm said:

Was Fieval a rat or a mouse? And does it matter that it was an animation? Katie and her mum both loved that little movie :)

■ metan on May 10, 2012 at 9:48 pm said:

It doesn't matter that he was animated. My favorite rat is Rizzo, friend of Gonzo. :)

■ acflory on May 11, 2012 at 8:03 am said:

lol – I'm going to have to watch it again coz I don't remember them. Strictly in the interests of research of course

■ metan on May 11, 2012 at 8:12 am said:

Of course! Muppets rule. :)

4. lorddavidprosser on May 10, 2012 at 11:41 pm said:

I thought Fieval was a rabbit in Watership Down? I'm not sure I dare blog the following

since I was seen to swear NO MORE. But today we appear to have Pria join us since Ju saw a lone female rat in the pet shop an felt sorry for her. It was Ju who actually left he that way after buying Bernie at the weekend. Next week she knows thy're putting the males out. I'm just booking my ticket to Llasa for a meditation break till they're al sold.

- metan on May 10, 2012 at 11:54 pm said:

Poor Priya, does that mean one of the rats is smart and beautiful but the rest of the girls don't like her? I'm not sure any amount of meditation will get you past this

- lorddavidprosser on May 11, 2012 at 3:57 am said:

She's certainly smart and beautiful being a lovely chocolate colour but he girls haven't met her yet so I can't say they'll dislike her. Perhaps they'll wait until they're in competition for the boys and then talk about her in a corner. I think you're right that meditation might not get me past this but it will keep the credit card and wallet in hiding till the boys have gone.

- metan on May 11, 2012 at 7:56 am said:

Maybe you could negotiate with the pet shop and apply some sort of ban to your wife. A new pet restraining order or some such ;) She could even get an official certificate...

- lorddavidprosser on May 11, 2012 at 2:43 pm said:

Great idea provided she can't prove it woz me wot did it.

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A CLEVER RAT.

We find an interesting account, too long for our columns, of an officer in the British army who had tamed, and always carried with him on his excursions, a pet rat. One day, while he was sketching in the mountains, the rat became very excited, uttering shrill cries, and running away from and then towards his master, then, failing to make him understand, he sprang on his master's knee and bit his wrist slightly, whereupon the officer, looking around, saw an immense bear coming towards him. He had no gun, and only saved himself by running.

Cluricauns, the mean drunken cousins of Leprechauns in Irish Folk Tales

lordsofthedrinks.com

May 14, 2015 by Micky Bumbar (Lords of the Drinks)



A cluricaun in a typical pose, enjoying the good life in someone's cellar.

When asked about Irish folkloric characters, most people won't get a lot further than leprechauns. You know, those dwarf-sized figures with a big red beard, huge hat and always smoking a pipe. In Irish mythology they were hard workers, who did all kinds of chaps (mainly fixing shoes) for people. If they weren't too busy pulling pranks or guarding the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow. Anyway, this story is not about the leprechauns but their cousins the cluricauns. These creatures look pretty much alike but they don't work and they're always completely drunk. The eternal question was if cluricauns were more good or evil, since it seemed they could be both. As they were protecting the wine cellars of those who treated them right, but also tormented drunkards or people who

didn't want to share their booze with them.

Some folklorists claimed that cluricauns are in fact leprechauns that turned to heavy drinking after an honest day of work. No wonder since the two creatures would look exactly the same if the cluricauns noses didn't have a healthy glowing color because of the alcohol, and if they wore tools. But why would they? Cluricauns never worked, they rather drank the night away and had fun instead. Unlike the surly leprechauns, they always seemed in a good mood. The general assumption therefor was that the two are not the same, but just closely related.

The Irish folklorist Nicholas O'Kearney in 1855 wrote in his book *Feis Tighe Chonain Chinn Shleibhe Or The Festivities At The House Of Conan Of Ceann Sleibhe In The County Of Clare*: *"The Clobhair-ceann (Irish word for cluricaun, MB) was another being of the same class: he was a jolly, red-faced, drunken little fellow, and was ever found in cellars of the debauchee, Bacchus-like, astride of the wine but with brimful tankard in the hand, drinking and singing away merrily. Any wine cellar known to be haunted by this sprite, was doomed to bring its owner to speedy ruin."* Not the most positive description and neither is the one written down in 1888 by William Butler Yeats in his book *Fairy & Folk Tales of Ireland*: *"The Cluricauns' occupations are robbing wine-cellars and riding sheep and shepherds' dogs for a livelong night, until the morning finds them panting and mud-covered."*

Basically cluricauns pulled the same stupid stuff as any other regular drunk, without caring too much what others thought of it. Rather anti-social drunks with a bad temper too. Because if anyone tried to stop them from riding sheep and dogs by the light of the moon, or singing old Irish folk songs in the cellar, they had another thing coming. And of course the worst sin a

host could commit was to neglect his liquor cabinet. A lack of alcohol in the house would drive a cluricaun mad to the point where he ruined all drinks that were left behind. If a his tormented homeowner decided to move his liquor stock from the basement, the cluricaun would simply follow him and continue the torture. The only way to get rid of them was to get rid of all of the booze. But once a cluricaun had left a house, no other of his kind would ever return to that place again.

A good thing right? Well, let's say that when treated right, cluricauns were great housemates. For a little piece of the alcohol stock, that they would help themselves to anyway, and some food or treats now and then, they would watch after the homeowners' properties. The little guys (there was never any mention of cluricaun women) would protect both the cellar and the house from thieves and vandals, they sealed leaking beer barrels, looked after the quality of the wine and kept an eye on the servants, so they wouldn't touch their master's good stuff. For sure one could do worse when picking a housemate.

Micky Bumbar

3 thoughts on "Cluricauns, the mean drunken cousins of Leprechauns in Irish Folk Tales"



1. woden13 says:
May 15, 2015 at 11:33 am

Reblogged this on Wolf and Raven.



2. cat9984 says:
June 27, 2015 at 12:30 am

So do they just roam the neighborhood looking for a likely house?



• Micky Bumbar (Lords of the Drinks) says:
June 29, 2015 at 10:06 pm

Yep... And when they found a decent cellar, they weren't leaving! :)
Cheers,
Micky

Posted on November 23, 2014 by nzumel

In the beginning there was only the earth, and the clouds in the sky. And there were three living beings, three gods: Bathala, a giant who lived on the earth; Ililangkalulua, a serpent who lived in the clouds; and Galangkalulua, a winged head who had no set home, but wandered from place to place. Each one thought that he was the only living being in the universe.



NewImage

Bathala lived all alone on the earth. There was nothing else there — no ocean or waters, no plants, no animals. Nothing but the hard, dry rocks. Bathala wandered around the rocks, along the plains, and up and down the mountains. He had no one to walk with. Sometimes he lay on the ground and looked up at the clouds, watching them float past and reshape themselves. At times, the clouds looked like the vast flat plains of earth; other times they looked more like flying mountains. He had no one to share his observations with. Sometimes he thought about creating people (he was a god, after all), other beings who could walk the plains and look at clouds with him; but how would they live? There was nothing on earth for mortal beings to eat, or to drink, or to give them shelter....

In the meantime, in the sky, Ililangkalulua wandered among the clouds, feeling much as Bathala did. Sometimes Ililangkalulua got bored with the sky, so he would come down to earth, to slither around the mountains and rocks. One day, Ililangkalulua was down on earth, sunning himself on a nice flat rock, when Bathala happened by.

Since each of them thought that they were alone in the universe, you can imagine the shock. Ililangkalulua found his tongue first.

"Who are you? What are you?"

"I am Bathala, king of the universe," said the other.

"What!?! I'm the ruler of all!" And Ililangkalulua challenged Bathala to a fight.

They struggled for hours, shaking the earth (the first earthquake?) until finally Bathala killed Ililangkalulua. He burned the body and buried the ashes. Then he went back to wandering the earth, alone.

Some time after this Galangkalulua, who had been traveling the whole universe, among the stars, here and there, landed on earth. He too ran into Bathala, but Bathala was less surprised this time, and apparently Galangkalulua had less of a temper than Ililangkalulua — or didn't care who called himself ruler of the universe. Now Bathala had someone to point out

the shapes of the clouds to, and to share his dreams of creating other beings, and Galangkalulua had someone to listen to his tales of comets and black holes and all the other things that he'd seen in his travels. Galangkalulua settled on the earth with Bathala, and the two became close friends.

But eventually Galangkalulua grew ill; despite all of Bathala's care, he was dying. On his deathbed, he said to Bathala:

"You've been very good to me, and I don't want you to be alone after I die. It's time for you to create the other beings that you've always dreamed of. When I die, bury my body in Ulilangkalulua's grave, and wait. I'll give you something that will help you."

And Galangkalulua died. Bathala did what Galangkalulua asked, and buried him where he had buried Ulilangkalulua.

Out of the grave grew a tree. Its leaves looked like Galangkalulua's wings and its trunk like Ulilangkalulua's body. On the tree grew large nut



NewImage

s, with white flesh and water in the center. The nuts had two holes like eyes, a third like a mouth, and a bump like a nose — it was Galangkalulua's face! This was the first coconut.

Now that there were sources of food and drink and shelter, Bathala created the first people. The people built houses out of the coconut tree's wood and leaves, and used the nuts for food; to this day, coconuts still provide food, drink, shelter, clothing, and a variety of useful things.

And that was the beginning of the world.

-
- I think we can count this as another dema deity myth. My retelling is based on the version from *Types of Prose Narratives* (1911) by Harriott Ely Fansler.
 - I have no idea why the god in the sky would be a giant serpent. There's another version of the story where the serpent god is named Dagatkalulua ("sea spirit"), which makes a bit more sense. There is a Visayan myth about a fight between Bathala and the god of the seas (Dumagit), which caused the Great Flood.
 - Bathala was the creator deity of the Tagalogs. The name apparently derives from the Sanskrit *bhattara* or *batara* ("noble lord") and is probably related to the Indonesian *batara* ("god"). There is also an Indonesian god (several versions, it seems) named Batara Guru.
 - According to Charles Coleman (*The Mythologie of the Hindus*, 1832), in Batak mythology Batara Guru is the god of justice, and has two brothers: Sori Pada, the god

of mercy; and Mangana Bulan, the original source of evil, like Satan or Loki. Supposedly Mananga Bulan has more to do with human affairs than his brothers do. According to Wikipedia, the brothers were hatched from three golden eggs laid by the divine blue hen Manuk Patia Raja (*manuk* = chicken or hen = *manok* in Tagalog).

- William Skeat (*Malay Magic: Being an introduction to the Folklore and Popular Religion of the Malay Peninsula*, 1900) links Batara Guru with the Hindu god Shiva. It's not too big a leap from there to imagine a link from the three brothers to the Hindu trinity: Brahma (the Creator), Vishnu (the Preserver) and Shiva (the Destroyer). I'd love to make a direct connection between these trinities and Bathala/Illilangkalulua/Galangkalulua, but it doesn't seem that obvious.
- *Ulilang Kaluluwa* means "orphaned spirit." *Galang Kaluluwa* means "reverend spirit" ("holy spirit?").
- The first image is "Oannès: I, the first consciousness of chaos, arose from the abyss that I might harden matter, and give law unto forms" by Odilon Redon, from his series of lithographs, *The Temptation of Saint Anthony*. Source: *The Public Domain Review*. Oannes was a mythical being from Mesopotamian mythology, a merman who came from the sea and taught humans writing, the arts, and sciences.
- The coconut photo is by Kulmalukko. Source: Wikimedia

This entry was posted in Folklore, Folktale and tagged coconuts, dema deity, Filipino mythology, food origin myths, Tagalog mythology. Bookmark the permalink.

One thought on "Coconuts and The Creation: A Tagalog myth"



1. drgeraldstein says:
on November 25, 2014 at 4:21 am

I think the story offers not only a creation myth, but perhaps a little bit of wisdom about relationships. Bathala discovers, to paraphrase Woody Allen, that, while relationships are difficult, "We need the eggs" they offer. Or, in this case, companionship and coconuts!

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Peculiar Discovery in a Boy's Stomach.

An example of the peculiar sympathetic attraction existing between water and milk before it reaches the consumer's hands, and also of the pernicious effects of overloading the stomach with butter, was furnished at a recent autopsy held in Boston. A child died from some mysterious disease, and a post mortem examination of the stomach was ordered. It was discovered that the child had been addicted to a very lavish use of butter, and that the action of the stomach by some unknown chemical process had reconverted the surplus supply forced upon the stomach into its primary form. A small cow, not more than five inches in length, was found as if peacefully grazing in the pit of the stomach, while close by a small spring of water was bubbling up from one of the ducts running to the liver which had been punctured by nature apparently for the purpose.—Boston paper.

Cows on the inside. A cautionary tale.

Cows on the inside. A cautionary tale. Posted by metan on August 28, 2013 Posted in: Bushwa , old newspapers . Tagged: 1896 , Australia , Boston , cautionary tale , children , cow , cow in stomach , kids , too much butter . 25 Comments I quickly scanned through the first two-thirds of this Peculiar Discovery in a Boys Stomach tale from Boston in 1896... hmmm, kid, unhealthy diet, unexpected death.... no surprise.... Then came WHAT THE...??!! and I went back to read it properly. A diet heavy on butter creating a five-inch cow grazing deep in the pit of a child's stomach? Do you think there is anyway the suggested terrors of this cautionary tale would change the behaviour of a small child? Ok, I'm sure that there are a few children out there who would have nightmares about the tappy-tap of tiny internal hooves, and only being able to communicate in mooooo, who will be sure to eat dry toast for the rest of their lives. Nevertheless, if I was to tell my boys to take it easy on the butter otherwise they might end up with a miniature pet cow in their stomach their little eyes would light up! Well, they would probably roll their eyes and say "Mu-uu-um" but, you know, if they lived in a less informed time, like 1896, I'm sure they would believe me. ;) I wonder who the gluttonous child was that this article was directed at? The greedy sprog of an editor who had tried everything else and failed to slow the chomping? This is really something all parents would like to have access to isn't it? The spreading of your own myth to control the children. I wonder if it worked? I love the little additional detail of the spring of water helpfully supplied by a hole in a liver duct. I guess even imaginary stomach cows have to drink... Ewww... Related Where did they get the key? In "Bushwa" More uses for a washing copper. (or, How to devalue a mountain of gold without even trying.) In "GOLD" It's moments like these you need.... not to be a cow. In "Bushwa" Posts navigation ← All The Single Laydeez. Happy Father's Day- Ouch! →

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25 comments on "Cows on the inside. A cautionary tale."

1. gingerfightback on August 28, 2013 at 5:04 pm said:

Brilliant! Moo moo

- metan on August 28, 2013 at 6:16 pm said:

I probably eat far more chips than is good for me, now all I can think of is a tiny Mr Potato Head lurking in the interior!

- gingerfightback on August 28, 2013 at 10:23 pm said:

I have a pint pot inside me!

2. davidprosser on August 28, 2013 at 5:06 pm said:

Wow, no wonder they say don't believe everything you read in the press. I wonder if Ripley then displayed 'it' in his Believe it or Not. xxx Hugs xxx

- metan on August 28, 2013 at 6:23 pm said:

You certainly can't believe everything you read! This cracked me up though, *reading, reading, reading* cow.... COW! What on earth?! I thought maybe I had finally overdosed on the cold and flu tablets. ;)

3. The Snail of Happiness on August 28, 2013 at 5:30 pm said:

I don't even want to think about what it was supposed to have been grazing on...

• metan on August 28, 2013 at 6:38 pm said:

And the ummmm.... fertilizer... Even a tiny cow would still produce tiny pats!

■ The Snail of Happiness on August 28, 2013 at 8:36 pm said:

eeeww!

4. wordswithnannaprawn on August 28, 2013 at 6:45 pm said:

Mind boggling.....1896? can't believe that description doesn't belong in a whole different era.....like at least a few centuries earlier. How in the name of sanity did that pass the editorial section of the newspaper?? Oh yes, perfectly plausible, don't hold the press!

• metan on August 28, 2013 at 7:26 pm said:

And the rest of the page it was on was filled with the normal articles of the day, nothing to make you expect that a tiny misplaced cow hanging out in a tummy might be waiting to confuse your reality.... :)

I wonder how many people read it and believed?

■ Map of Time on August 29, 2013 at 1:18 am said:

Er, you mean to say it wasn't true? :cry:

■ metan on August 29, 2013 at 10:19 am said:

There there... *pats back*

Imagine if you could produce tiny cows from eating too much dairy? Brilliant stuff. Does that mean I could make tiny chickens if I ate too many eggs? Midget porkers from too much bacon? A whole new world of tiny critters awaits!

5. anne54 on August 28, 2013 at 10:18 pm said:

And then the bizarre statement that the child died of a 'mystery disease'. What, having a cow living in his stomach and grazing on the stomach lining wasn't enough to kill the poor chap?!!

• metan on August 28, 2013 at 10:48 pm said:

I guess the intended butter-filled recipient of this message wasn't smart enough to need to read about an actual disease, a mystery one was enough!

Hmm, grazing on the stomach lining? Hadn't thought of that, slowly nibbling its way to freedom to burst out Alien-style at the dinner table one night. :)

- anne54 on September 1, 2013 at 10:23 pm said:

A miniature cow bursting out at the dinner table — that's an image! But probably not as scary as the alien.

6. Cotton Boll Conspiracy on August 29, 2013 at 12:19 am said:

I used to think that chewing gum stuck to your ribs for seven years if you swallowed it. I guess all kids are gullible to some degree, especially with things they can't see, like what goes on inside the body.

- metan on August 29, 2013 at 10:28 am said:

It's a bit like being told eating your crusts will make your hair curly or that carrots will make you see better in the dark isn't it? And even when we know it can't possibly be true we use it on our own kids!

7. EllaDee on August 29, 2013 at 11:29 am said:

And spinach will give you muscles like Popeye the Sailor Man... The article is a much more imaginative version of today's scientific studies blather... don't eat x it will will give you a heart attack and/or cancer... eat too much butter and you'll get cows grazing in your stomach... Much more interesting. I wonder if the kid it was aimed at ever ate another stick of butter? What do you need to eat to get butterflies in your stomach...

- metan on August 29, 2013 at 12:33 pm said:

Why, caterpillars of course! Although, with the flap of a butterflies wing and the ensuing tornado, you might just end up with wind... ;)

I agree that the possibility of cows is far more entertaining than improved eyesight or extra muscles. If only we could find out if this article worked on the subject, or any other greedy kid making inroads into the family's butter supply.

- EllaDee on August 29, 2013 at 12:54 pm said:

I have a juice green caterpillar eating my plants but nup, I'll pass on that. My Dad's not 1896 vintage but he's old enough, and I'm seeing him on the weekend, so I'll ask if he's ever heard of this type of scare tactics... it wouldn't surprise me if my family were purveyors of such nonsense with the best of intentions... anything to get kids to behave!

8. acflory on August 29, 2013 at 1:53 pm said:

A miniature cow, a spring of water and butter. It makes perfect sense.... the only thing that baffles me is what bozo allowed this article to be published in the first place! This has to be your weirdest find yet Metan.

I was about to click post and go make a coffee when I had a sudden flash of someone being interviewed after an alien abduction.

The more things change...

- metan on August 29, 2013 at 1:57 pm said:

Hmmm.... What do you get from too much coffee? Full of beans! ;)

- acflory on August 29, 2013 at 3:17 pm said:

Imao!

9. fionakills on August 29, 2013 at 3:41 pm said:

a) This was in THE PAPER??

b) readingkills.com is my new blog and you should follow it because you are my sister and it's your job.

c) I can't believe none of you thought that it was real. I assumed that he died from swallowing a toy cow and that doctors aren't very clever in the past. :P

- metan on August 29, 2013 at 6:53 pm said:

a) Yeah baby, the paper. Warms yer heart, doesn't it? ;)

b) readingkills? Lemme look..... Ahhhh, Australian crime books? OF COURSE I'LL FOLLOW!

c) I guess a toy cow would need to be liberally slathered in butter to go down without doing too much oesophageal damage.....

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Craco

Walking through the deserted streets of this place, you can hear the echoes of thousands of children scampered for their steep slopes. Imagine the hurried footsteps of the old ones, to the sound of the bells of the parish church of San Nicola , come hurrying to noon mass.



Slowly and with the hiss of the breeze that always blows in the valley Cavone as sole companion, crumbling

facades of palaces like the Palazzo Grossi , Madonna, Carbone or Simonetti will guide the direction of the walker to the ruins of the old castle. Fortaleza during many centuries hosted the most powerful families in southern Italy.

Among the crumbling walls, a building still stands out from the rest is the convent of San Pedro and from the top of its tower, the landscape we can see our breath short. The extensive valley Cavone spreads like a sea of hills to beyond where we can see. The wind blows hard, and down in the village, a peculiar concert begins moaning and chirriares caused by the beating of windows and shutters, doors barely hold by a rusty hinge or the remains of a weather vane for decades lost the north.



We are in the abandoned village Craco , which was before Graculum or Cracum and that its stones holds more than 2500 years of history. Pre Romanesque, Craco born between the eighth and sixth centuries BC not the second millennium AD is known too much of their history until practically, indicating that for centuries the inhabitants did not pass too many penalties dedicated to the cultivation and livestock in the fertile valley.

In the tenth century, the property passed into the hands of Archbishop Arnaldo di Tricarico and disembark in place Basilian monks who give a boost to the population rebuilding and repopulating much of it. From here, the people passing part of various feuds of kings, nobles and powerful families of the Middle

Ages. And so it goes almost to the twentieth century. In 1963, an earthquake causes serious

damage in the village, collapsing many houses. Begin migration to more prosperous places until 1975, the last inhabitant leaving this beautiful and ancient enclave.

Since then, the place is dying slowly under the sun of August and winter cold and biting wind awaiting another ground motion, end up totally collapsing buildings while still resisting.

As a curiosity, to say that in this place, among others, the film "was filmed The Passion of Christ "by Mel Gibson.



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The Inquisition was a set of institutions created for the purpose of suppressing heresy within the bosom of the Catholic Church.



It was used almost entirely to the burning of "witches". It exposed the witch in the eyes of the people tied to a post. All around there were prepared wood for later on, so the person burning alive.



The condemned, naked, he was lying on his back on the floor or on the scaffold with the most extended and tied to stakes or iron rings members. Under the wrists, elbows, knees and hips they were placed pieces of wood. The executioner asataba violent blows to the wheel, crushed all the bones and joints, trying not to make fatal blows.

After depending on the type of wheel the procedure varied.

The convict was untied and introduced between the spokes of the large horizontal wheel at one end of a pole after rising. Crows and other animals tore strips of flesh and emptied the eye sockets of the victim, until you came to this death.

3) THE STORK



It consisted of subjecting the individual to this device made of iron that held the convicted neck, hands and ankles, and subjected to a very uncomfortable position that caused cramps rectal and abdominal muscles; and within hours the entire body.

4) Iron Maiden

It's sort of spiked crowd coffin inside, directed to specific points on the body, which were slowly digging on the victim as the door closed. The nails were removable, so you could change places, in order to have a broad range of possible mutilations and wounds that resulted in a more or less slow death.

5) TURTLE



It was compressed or crushed under a timber weight on the defendant.

6) garrotte

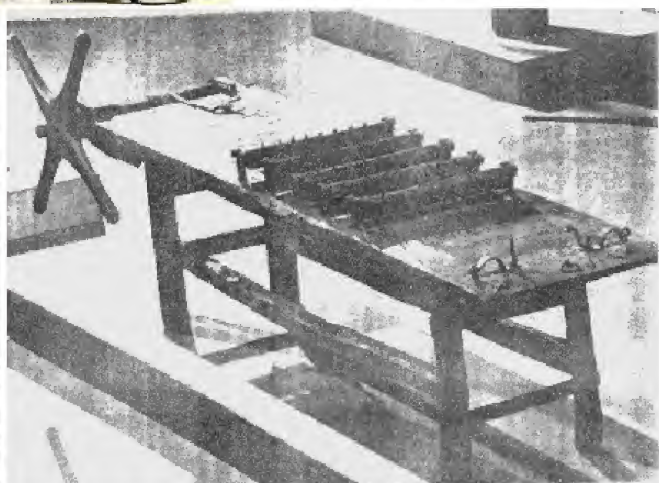
Method by which an iron punch penetrated and broke the cervical vertebrae at the same time pushing forward around the neck crushing the trachea against the fixed collar, killing by asphyxiation or slow destruction of the spinal cord.

It was used until the early twentieth century in Catalonia and in some Latin American countries.



7) the rack

You would lie and wrists tied to the headboard, feet bound in turn attached to a bearing through a mechanism that would rope wrapping your feet, thus creating a tension that made the body could be stretched to the maximum.



The

joints could not give more of themselves and ended desencajándose shoulders and hips.

8) the stocks

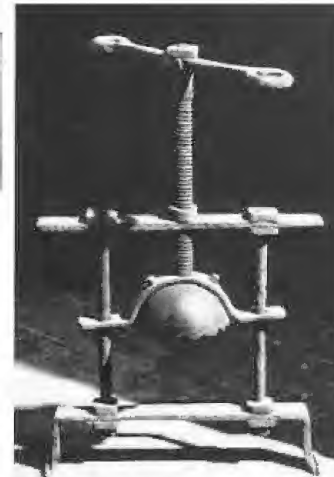
Instrument used for corporal punishment. They tortured the victims seating them in that position for long days or keeping it up, according to the type of stocks. Often they used to burn their hot tips or lashed them with whips instruments.

9) THE GUILLOTINE



This is an extremely well-known instrument in which the head of the victim stood and dropped a sharp and deadly blade that beheaded.

10) THE Mantreads



Instrument of torture applied in the Middle Ages meant to break the bones of the skull. The victim's chin is placed on the bottom bar and the cap was pulled down by the screw. Thus first tooth sockets after the jaws are shredded and finally dripped down the brain cavity between the eyes and the skull fragments.

11) THE JUDAS CRADLE



Torture method generally used for confessions. The prisoner is lifted and once was high, he suddenly let go to fall on the pyramid of wood, steel toe, causing injuries to the testicles, anal or vaginal cavity.

12) DESMEMBRABRADO FOR HORSES



A rope was tied at each end of the stud and turn the other end of

the rope to a horse. At one point the four horses are whipped so hard thrown rope literally tearing the tortured limbs.

13) CHINA DROP



It was a method of psychological torture was to immobilize an inmate in a horizontal opening up leaving every 5 seconds down on his forehead a drop of cold water. After several hours he caused physical damage to the skin, but the real torture for the victim was madness that caused him unable to sleep or drink, soon died of cardiac arrest.

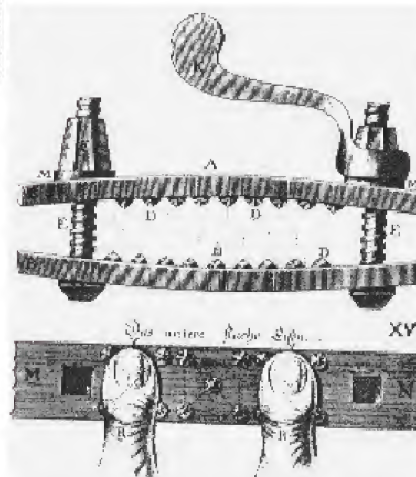
14) impalement



It is a method of torture and execution where the victim is pierced by a stake. Penetration may be by his side, for the rectum, vagina or mouth. The stake is used to stick in the ground leaving the victim hung to die.

In some types of impalement, the stake is not sharpened and inserted avoiding immediate death in a way that would work as a plug for the victim to bleed and prolong the agony that could last up to three days.

15) THE thumbscrew



It is one of the oldest and simple, but terribly effective torture. Torture itself consisted in crushing nails, phalanges and knuckles slowly and gradually extending the pain for days without cause deadly harm to the victim.

This may interest you:
The Curse of Carmen

Winstead, Urban Legend

16) CHAIR



The victim was sitting completely naked on the chair. If the Inquisitor saw fit could send the executioner hit the prisoner, causing the spikes from entering deeper into the skin or even if the seat was iron send heat to skewers red hot from entering the skin better.

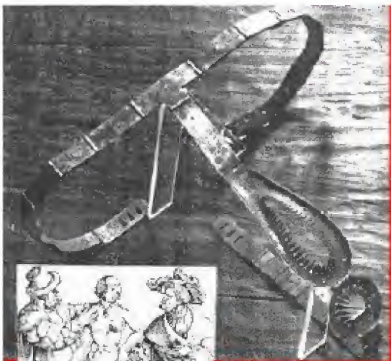
17) PEAR



These instruments are used in oral and rectal forms. They were placed in the mouth, rectum or vagina of the victim, and there were deployed by means of a screw to its maximum opening. The cavity was irreparably damaged. Oral pear normally applied to the heretical preachers, but also guilty of unorthodox secular trend. The vaginal

pear, however, was destined to the guilty of having sex with Satan or one of his female relatives, and rectal homosexuals.

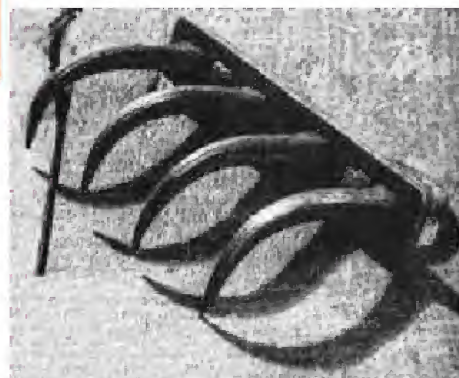
18) the chastity belt



It is a belt or panty iron locks. It can be used only for a few hours, maximum a few days, otherwise the woman to take him die victim of infections, abrasions and lacerations caused by contact with the metal.

This belt was used by women as a defense against rape in times of quartering of soldiers, during trips and overnight stays in inns.

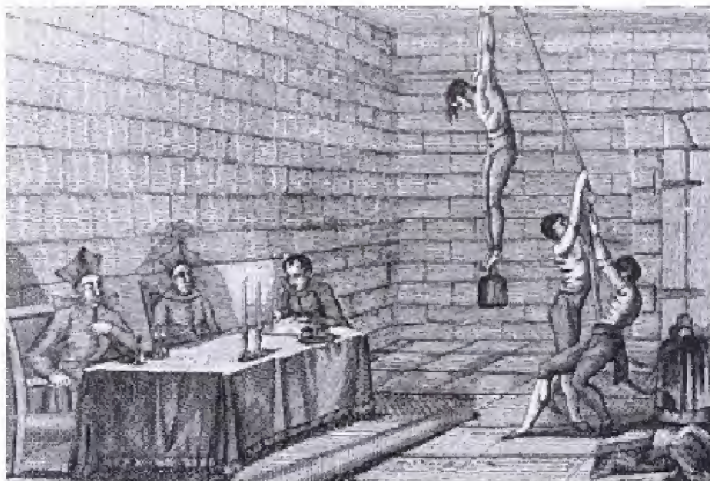
19) THE CAT ZARPA



The torture was hanging naked and with a gifted instrument of hooks on the end and was "scratching". The sharp nails in this cat's paw and tore the skin tore strips of flesh hooks often penetrated so deep that left the bone uncovered and could even "scrape". The

tortured he used to bleed to death or became unconscious because of the pain.

20) THE PENDULUM



The victim's wrists were tied behind his back, a rope hoisting the accused this bond was added.

Humeri were dismantled immediately and gradually also the other vertebrae.

Related Entries:

the stark, Urban Legend

Gloomy Sunday - The suicide song, Urban Legend

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Ad caput doli q dormire nualet.

Pro anacolima ifronte san
linis succū ei mox sedat dolo
re capitis. 7 etiā somnū ei cici
ueniet. **Ad aurū doli:**

Sue ei herbe cū oleo nardino
solutū macturas suffundis
aurib; mira celeritate sanabit.

Ad grauē podagrā.

Si dext manu 7 pede dext
mandragore tollis sepulas
singulas puluerabis. 7 dabis in
potu in mero p. die. mira ce
leritate sanabit. 7 n solū tumo
re s; 7 cōtione neruq; utrū
q; ad se reuocat. 7 utq; do
lores mire sanant q; ex
pinto aucto.

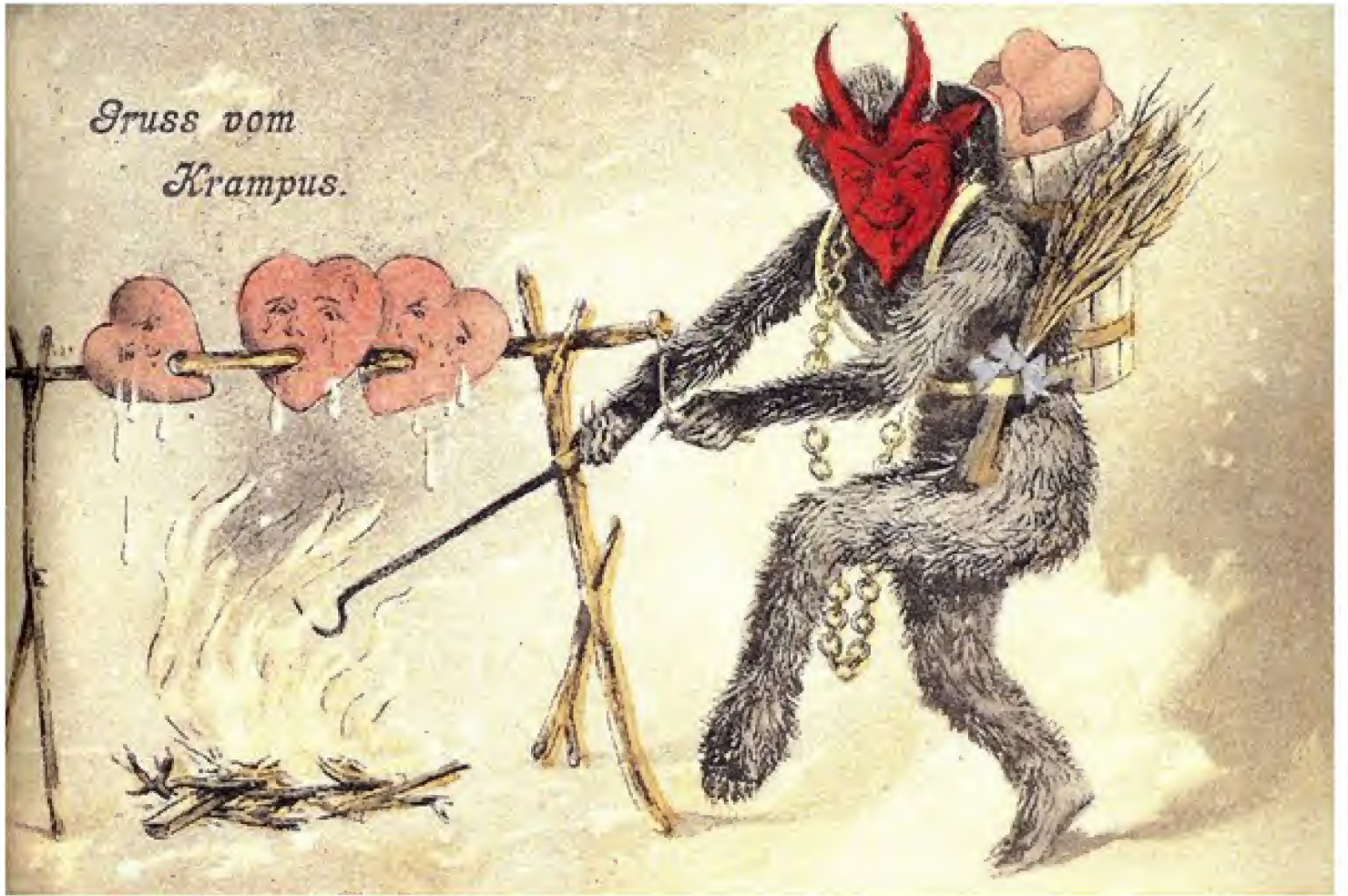
phatūe. Ad epilep

ricos hoc

caducū 7 q spasmū pascunt ut:



*Gruss vom
Krampus.*



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 1 10 10 0 11 34 25 1A
 8 8 42 1A 47 11 82 1A 40
 9 5 11 2 11 11 7A 12 28 1A
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 14 11 5 11 11 7 22 7 1
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4841. *Eliminatio le in omni*

Lord have Mercy upon us.



Death triumphant c'loth'd in Ermine
Not whole bones do crawl the Vermine
Death denote that each condition
To his power must yeeld submission

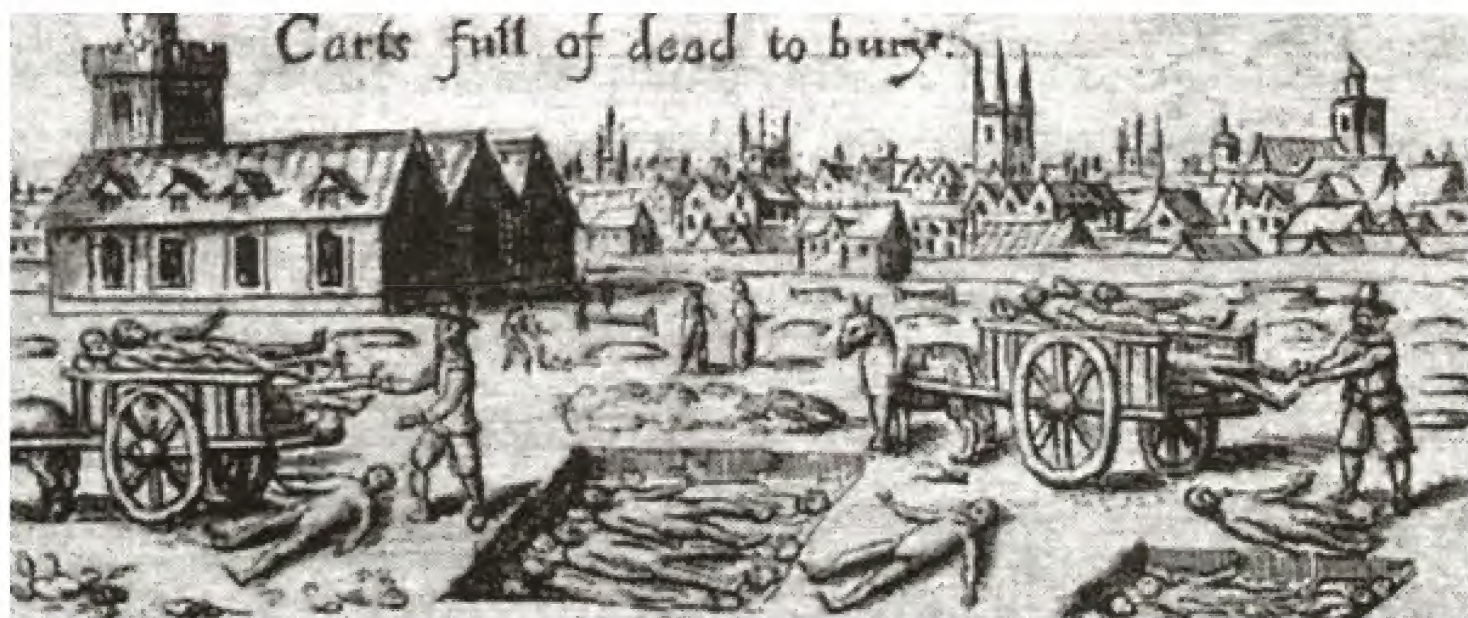
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To which is added the
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thereof

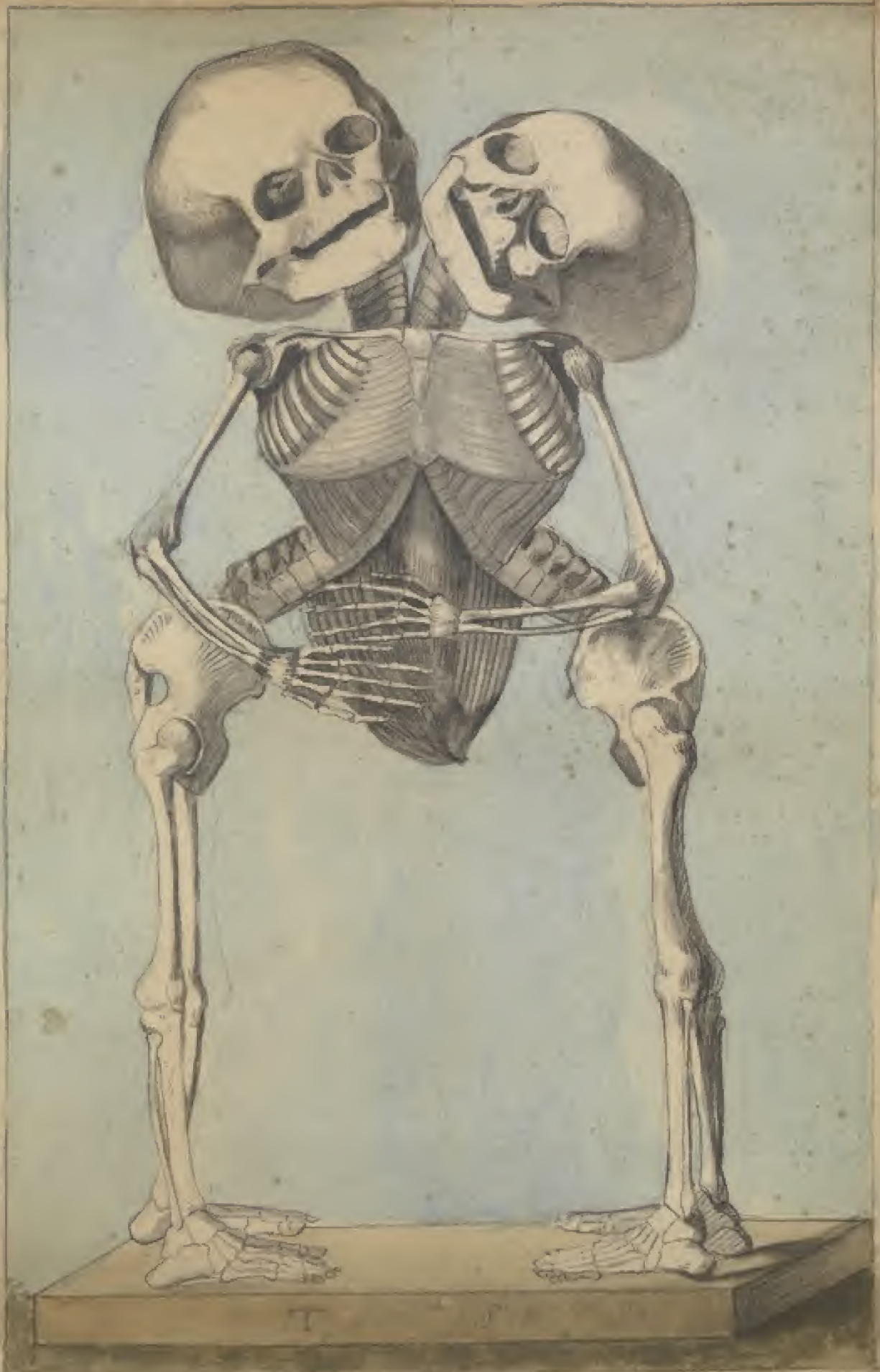
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in -b -nery -Lent Price 8 d. 1667











THE GENTLEMAN'S GUIDE ~TO AMPUTATION~



→ SUCCESS! Time for brandy! ←

De donacione Aquit.



Nardus æ. Clarissimo primogenito ur̃o.
principi Wallie: salutem. A regali solio. Desit a
singule temporales prodeunt dignitates. Et ex hu
tatis integritas. minoracois detrimenta. non sen
aus curis et sollicitudinibz reuelata: tanto secun
legat et ptegar continue in adusis: quanto pluribz
subsidiis fulciat. Stat tutum tribunal regni
papatum potencia. gaudent et subditi dñi sui Principalis psonam in san
suar effigie frequencius intueri: et sibi fore prospicui reputantes. qd vl
lis p singulas dñacionis sue prouincias. non potit psonaliter intesse: he
sinatura. omni rectum ordinem prosequat. continuans temporibz ass
quo transgressor insolencie. ex honore et potestate iuris sibi traditi. ad tuti
ant frequencius. et alior laudabilia et fructuosa obsequia. digne retribucon
li. et omni confidencione fili noster. carissime. necnon multis a

k e il n en liz wgnent
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ai sirent dner loun gages







The

Prophy-lactic

Tooth Brush

Earned its reputation by
"mouth to mouth" advertising





quor) onoward.

LX.—*Furmente with porpeys* (porpus).

Take clene whete, and bete it small in a mortar, and fanne out clene the doust; thenne waigsshe (*wash*) it clene, and boile it tyl it be tendre, and broun (*brown*). Thanne take the secunde mylk of almandes, and do (*put*) thereto. Boile hem togyder til it be stondyng, and take the first mylke and alpe (*mix*) it up with a pene (*feather*). Take up the porpays out of the furmente, and leshe (*lay*) hem in a dishe with hoot water; and do safron to the furmente, and if the porpays be salt, seeth it by hymself, and serbe it forth.

Cure for a cough

Take 1 pint best old Jamaica Spirits,

$\frac{1}{2}$ pint Honey,

$\frac{1}{2}$ ounce Allcompane,

$\frac{1}{2}$ ounce Indian Turpentine

Put into an Earthen pipkin and set it on to Simmer
till it be come as a Syrup, it must be some time, it should
not Boil, take a large Teaspoonful, 2 or 3 times a
Day, and at Night going to Bed,

To make an Ointment

House-leek one handfull

Prickly pear one leaf, the prickles must be taken off

Nightshade one handfull

White Plantain a handfull

Inner Bark of Elder a handfull

Stew these Ingredients into as much fresh butter, as will
make it an Ointment, it must be well Stewed in
the Butter, and then strained off



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For years, the English town of Carlisle lives under a real curse: floods, plagues of FMD, soaring unemployment and a drought Goals local football team that has led them to downgrade.

The blame, say local authorities, has the ' Stone Damn ', a rock with an engraving of a curse made in 1525 that only brings evil to the region. The mentalist Uri Geller has offered to get rid of the stone and deliver the people from the curse. The problems of this small town in northern England began in 2001, when the city council commissioned the artist Gordon Young to record on a rock curse, pick some books, which in 1525 became the Archbishop of Glasgow "against those who dared

looting, destroying or stealing in their territories. " In total, 1,069 words which originally were intended for the people "northern barbarians, who made incursions into the region" and that since since 2001 are one of the biggest attractions of the Municipal Museum. And that's when they started the evils of the people. First came the plague FMD almost finished with the local pig production. Then came the fire "of biblical proportions", the closure of several factories that left unemployed dozens of people, killing a child and this last winter floods that have devastated crops, parks and streets of Carlisle .

Not to mention the misfortune that has befallen the local football team, which has downgraded and has been unable to score a goal in recent games. The popular concern has reached the point that local political concluded that the stone had to be destroyed, but ultimately that possibility was rejected by the full council."The people of Carlisle has shown that making rational decisions, "said Mayor Mike Mitchelson told the BBC.Although the council is still looking with the bishop of Carlisle , a way out of the situation.

The solution, however, may come from as far away as Israel. There is the mentalist Uri Geller , who has offered to "remove the stone from there, put it on my garden and exorcise". According to the showman, living in England for some time, "the book of curses says there is an ancient healing center in my garden, so I use my pendulum to clean the stones of the evil forces that bring curses." Geller's neighbors in the village of Sonning-on-Thames , have not yet been pronounced, but there are already many Internet that asked not take the damn stone there. For now, the giant stone will remain in place.

Contacto Paranormal US © 2013. All Rights Reserved. Powered by TIN

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The bat-wielding thug that Carson claims he was melts away, replaced by a dude with a pocket protector. A story about him stabbing another youth also falls apart, which led to *New York* magazine's transcendent headline, "**Ben Carson Defends Himself Against Allegations That He Never Attempted to Murder a Child.**" It's like an *Alice In Wonderland* version of a Detroit youth and a nationwide contemporary moment: Ben Carson, insisting, "I would say to the people of America: Do you think I'm a pathological liar like CNN does? Or do you think I'm an honest person?" Because, sure, I tried to stab someone to death, but you wouldn't trust me if I were a liar.

Mr. URBAN,

June 16.

HAVING observed in your Magazine many remarks on the mutilation of antient architecture, I take the liberty to mention one cause of it I have often regretted. I refer to the infamous practice of playing at football in some of the most curious parts of Westminster-abbey, by the men who are appointed to shew them. I cannot help thinking it is owing to this shameful custom that so many of the tombs are mutilated; and it must be confessed that a warrior, who has once fallen in the service of his country, ought not to have his head carried away a second time by a foot ball.

Yours, &c.

C. B—.

THE VALUE OF PHYSICAL TRAINING.

WE firmly believe that Englishmen have become the civilisers of the world, and have maintained their position as the most practical people on the face of the globe, mainly in consequence of the manner in which they have kept a due equilibrium between mental and physical education. To make up the truly able man, muscle as well as grey brain-matter should be thoroughly exercised. Your pale student is only half a man, and will never produce those robust movements which form epochs in the world's history; your mere athlete, on the other hand, will not advance beyond the excitement of the ring; they, on the contrary, who alternate football and cricket, riding and shooting, with a steady mental training, are the sort of stuff out which we carve new empires. The colony of New Zealand, the most prosperous perhaps of our Pacific possessions, was mainly founded by young fellows, who scarcely a score of years ago were crack bowlers at Eton, leading oarsmen on the Isis, or sturdy football players at Rugby when Arnold was their king. The taste for athletic games, so long cherished at our public schools, has been of immense importance in forming the English character. The fashions of the great seminaries have

the foot-race or the boat-match. The fairer half of creation across the "herring-pond" have still further degenerated from the standard of their mothers of England—flat-breasted, round-backed, and "rotten before they are ripe", to use a vulgar but forcible expression, instead of being, as was said of Michael Angelo's women, "models of generation", they only seem capable of passing on a fast declining race. The breezy ride upon the heath, the long country walk, the natural attitudes of the maidens of the old country, are unknown to them, and we see the result; they are old women at forty, with black teeth and withered frames. The Americans are beginning to perceive the perilous condition into which they have been brought,

proposed the names of "The Queen,"
"The Prince," and "His Royal Highness
Prince Alfred," which were heartily
responded to. Dancing then com-
menced, and the following sports and
games in succession amused and em-
ployed the assemblage during the after-
noon:—Cricket, quoits, jingling, or
blind-man's buff, foot races, hurdle
races, jumping in sacks, snapping at
gingerbread and treacled rolls, bobbing
in water for oranges, dipping in meal
for coin, climbing greasy pole for leg of
mutton, leap-frog, wheeling barrows
blindfolded, the man wheel race, wind-
ing and unwinding string round pegs,
football, whipping the monkey. At
seven o'clock the Queen and Prince

property in endeavouring to *save his life*.

In the successive variance of feminine amusements, *foot-ball* is fast going out; and *leap-frog* is now the full sport of the day: a famous match was played, a short time since, in Greenwich-park, by an *athletic* Dirke, and three elastic young women of fashion, to the astonishment of the veteran corps of *Pensioners*, who agree that a Whitsun roll down the hill, in point of *exhibition*, is nothing to be compared with it!

By Daniel Uria | Nov. 16, 2015 at 2:41 PM

TAMPA, Fla., Nov. 16 (UPI) — Students and faculty at Brandon High School in Florida were met with a gruesome sight when they arrived for school Monday morning.

A dead deer was strung up the school's flagpole, hanging up by its hind leg.

There was little to no evidence of any other kind of vandalism in the area and both school officials and local authorities believe it to be a misguided prank.

"In this case what may have started out as a prank in the minds of students could become a criminal charge," Hillsborough County sheriff's spokesperson, Larry McKinnon, told the Tampa Bay Times.

Florida Fish and Wildlife Services state that the deer had been dead for about six hours.

The deer was not believed to have been alive while being hung and school staff quickly removed the animal from sight although some students saw it and posted photos to social media.

Authorities stated that they would be checking the school's surveillance system in hopes of finding the culprit.

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Canadian couple found dead in hotel hot tub before daughter's wedding

08:34 EST, 12 November 2015

dailymail.co.uk

Canadian couple die in Mexican hot tub sex session as husband, 67, has heart attack and smothers wife, 63, just two days before their daughter was due to get married

- **Charles McKenzie, 67, suffered fatal heart attack in hot tub in hotel room**
- **His wife, Dorothy, 63, drowned in the water moments later, officials said**
- **The Canadian couple's bodies were found by their distraught daughter**
- **The daughter had been due to tie the knot in Mexico just two days later**

By Sophie Jane Evans for MailOnline

A Canadian husband and wife in their sixties died while having sex in a Mexican hotel hot tub - just two days before they were due to watch their daughter tie the knot.

Charles McKenzie, 67, died after suffering a heart attack in the tub at the luxury Playacar Palace Hotel in Playa del Carmen, while his wife, Dorothy, 63, drowned moments later, officials said.

Mrs McKenzie, who is described as being 'slender', was apparently squashed by her dying husband's body, resulting in her death from 'asphyxiation by submersion', an autopsy found.



The pair's bodies were reportedly discovered by their 35-year-old daughter at 10am on Tuesday.

They are believed to have died either in the early hours of the morning, or late the night before, and there were no signs of forced entry or disorder in the room when it was investigated by police.

Although it was initially feared that the couple may have been killed due to an electrical fault, an autopsy later showed that Mr McKenzie died from a heart attack, officials told Canadian media.

Mrs McKenzie, meanwhile, was found to have drowned.

The couple, both from Baddeck, Nova Scotia, had traveled to Mexico for their daughter's wedding, and were staying on the fourth floor of the hotel in Quintana Roo when the tragedy occurred.

Speaking to The Canadian Press earlier this week, Mrs McKenzie's brother, Douglas



© Palace Resorts

Hastings, said he didn't know whether the wedding would be cancelled following the bride's parents' deaths.

'I know that they're more concerned about the remains and cremation and things like that. I don't really know about the wedding,' said Mr Hastings, whose wife is also in Mexico for the wedding.

If it had gone ahead as planned, the wedding would have taken place today.

A hotel spokesman said the McKenzies' deaths are being investigated by police.

The spokesman also dismissed reports that the couple may have been electrocuted in the tub, insisting : 'All the equipment was working perfectly. What the family mentioned was a



© Palace Resorts

heart attack.'

A Department of Foreign Affairs spokesman confirmed the deaths of two Canadians.

Consular officials are helping the couple's loved ones to deal with the tragedy.

The comments below have been moderated in advance.



dianasublime, Florida, United States, about 15 hours ago

Weird. Crazy. Embarrassing way to go out.

Pigenfracfyn, Boston, United States, about 15 hours ago

Where the hell do you find

these stories?





sally, Mpls., United States, about 15 hours ago

I've stayed at this hotel. It's all inclusive, including booze, no children allowed. Quite the party every single night.



Lipblips, Houston, United States, about 15 hours ago

Loss of both parents suddenly and when they were all there to celebrate a wedding! Very traumatic for the daughter on so many levels.



Chez John, Kensington London, United Kingdom, about 15 hours ago

One happy note, they died making love together, together, forever. Rest In Peace you two.



Randy T, Anywhere USA, United States, about 15 hours ago

What a shame this had to happen at their daughter's wedding. She will probably cancel and wait awhile as this will be around her anniversary date.



Gr8Scott1, LA, United States, about 15 hours ago

Wonder if alcohol was involved.



GM2016, WA, United States, about 15 hours ago

Some decency and discipline is needed - its a shame to go out this way and to be discovered in tub by their daughter. ANy family must be ashamed of this. Less or no morals at all today.



RKB82, London, United Kingdom, about 16 hours ago

Two people have died but why was it relevant to mention they were having sex??



Journalism has died, Los angeles, United States, about 16 hours ago

what a way to go and the poor daughter, knowing they died in such a way,



bondgirl, Sunrise, United States, about 16 hours ago

No matter what the circumstances, losing both parents, on the eve of betrothal, is too horrible to imagine. Anticipating a joyous event, and then, to be "struck with lightning,"

twice, is unfathomable. May they can get a modicum of comfort, believing, these two loved one other, and are now, together, forever. I truly hope, that the deceased, were the kind of jovial souls, who would appreciate the irony, of going out "with a bang," without meaning any disrespect. It is obviously a mind-boggling shock and loss, for all their family and friends.

Part of the Daily Mail, The Mail on Sunday & Metro Media Group

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Monday, 12 October 2015

DEEPLY DIPPY OVER DIPLOCAULUS



Traditional boomerang-headed restoration of *Diplocaulus* (public domain)

Up to 3 ft long, superficially salamander-like in basic form, but belonging to the long-extinct nectridean taxonomic order within the equally erstwhile subclass of archaic amphibians known as lepospondyls, one of my favourite creatures from pre-dinosaurian prehistory has always been *Diplocaulus* – famous for its huge inverted V-shaped or boomerang-shaped head, as exhibited by several species (plus a very close relative, the lesser-known but near-

identical *Diploceraspis burkei*). The reason for its head's bizarre shape is its skull's pair of enormous but dorsoventrally flat, lateral bony projections known as tabular horns. These remarkable structures may have enabled its head to serve as a hydrofoil when this amphibian was swimming, or may even have prevented it from being swallowed by predators, by increasing its head's width beyond the gape of any carnivorous creature alive at that time that shared its zoogeographical distribution range.



Restoration of *Diploceraspis burkei* (© Dmitry Bogdanov/Wikipedia CC BY 3.0)

Arising in North America, this extraordinary creature lived during the Permian Period (approximately 300-250 million years ago), although only *D. minimus*, currently the only known non-American representative (native to Morocco), occurred during the late Permian. Consequently, this makes various photographs and videos of alleged living *Diplocaulus* specimens that have surfaced online and elsewhere in the media during recent years nothing if not intriguing...

DIPLOCAULUS IN A DISH (DIAD)

The first of these reputed resurrectees is one that I shall refer to hereafter as DIAD (short for *Diplocaulus* in a dish). As I documented in my book ***Extraordinary Animals Revisited*** (2007), in September 2004 *Fortean Times* forwarded to me a short note from reader Stuart Pike enquiring about a photograph that had been circulating online and which depicted a

bizarre-looking mystery beast labelled in accompanying internet reports as a hammerhead lizard. Here is the photograph in question:



The 'hammerhead lizard', or, as I have since dubbed it, the DIAD (© source unknown to me)

Not long afterwards, Maltese journalist Tonio Galea independently contacted me, requesting details about this same photo (still of unknown origin), whose creature, according to local Maltese rumour, had lately been discovered alive on a rocky beach at Il-Maghluq,

Marsascula, in the south of the island. I subsequently received several more enquiries from other correspondents, and so too, it transpired, did various other scientists, including Malta University biologist Prof. Patrick J. Schembri, who wrote about it in a letter published on 21 November 2004 in Malta's *Sunday Times* newspaper (click [here](#)).

In reality, however, what this intriguing photo depicts is a gypsum/non-urethane foam-based model of a *Diplocaulus*. Investigations of mine eventually revealed via a Japanese model-making website (click [here](#)) that this DIAD had been manufactured back in 1992 by an amateur Japanese model maker in response to a magazine competition. I have still not succeeded in discovering the model maker's name, but I did manage to uncover a second photograph of the DIAD itself, which is this one:



Second photograph of the DIAD (© source unknown to me)

DIPLOCAULUSON VIDEO

YouTube contains several videos purporting to show living specimens of *Diplocaulus* (with at least two totally different specimens featured – one pink, one green), but all of them have been filmed and uploaded by the same person –

which means that either he/she is unaccountably successful at locating living specimens of an amphibian deemed extinct for at least 250 million years by palaeontologists; or, all is not as it seems.

The person in question has the YouTube username SouldierTVSP, and has loaded three separate videos of what is claimed to be the same specimen, which can be viewed in sequence of their filming [here](#), [here](#), and [here](#); plus a much shorter video montage [here](#); and a video of a visibly different specimen [here](#).

The first of the three videos allegedly showing the same specimen was filmed on 22 July 2011 (according to an on-screen caption). The second video consisted of three separate segments, filmed respectively (according to on-screen captions) on 26 July 2011, 1 August 2011, and 8 August 2011. No on-screen date was given for the third video, but as all three videos were uploaded by SouldierTVSP on 8 August 2011, this third video was clearly a continuation of the second one's ending section. Each of the three videos was accompanied by the following interestingly worded request: "Someone, please teach me this strange creature's true colors", beneath which for the third video was this additional, rather more forthright statement: "Diplocaulus Still Alive!! Paranormal Creature".

As will be seen when viewed, these three videos show what looks like a pink toy *Diplocaulus* amidst some vegetation debris floating in a current of water, seemingly a stream or river. There is nothing in the videos that can be used as an effective up-close scale to provide an estimate of size for the object (but unless the surrounding debris is very substantial, it would seem to be small). The object is moving entirely passively, drifting and buffeted by the current, with just an occasional slight movement of its tail or head, as might be expected, for instance, of a toy with a jointed tail and head, but no sign of any independent animate movements. In contrast, palaeontologists believe that in life, *Diplocaulus* would have probably swum by vertical undulations of its body, as its small weak legs and relatively short tail would not have been of much locomotory assistance. Of course, the object in the videos just might be a recently dead animal as opposed to a living one, but to my eyes the object looks as if it has never lived. Also, these three videos were filmed over an 18-day period, and yet the object's appearance does not change at all (in 18 days, a dead animal, conversely, would have shown considerable signs of decomposition, assuming that it hadn't already been devoured by a predator).



***Diplocaulus magnicornis*, fossil skull, in *Journal of Morphology*, 1912 (public domain)**

On 16 November 2012, SouldierTVSP uploaded a very short video montage entitled 'Diplocaulus Still Alive! Cryptid Exist [sic]'. It began with a brief clip of a still photograph depicting someone holding a large creature to the camera, its somewhat salamander-like head pointing forward as it looks directly into the camera. The head bears a pair of fleshy flap-like lateral projections, but these are nowhere near as large or boomerang-shaped as those of *Diplocaulus*. The rest of the creature cannot be readily seen; indeed, based upon that photo alone, I'm not entirely convinced that the creature is an amphibian (not even a deformed one), rather than some unusual wide-mouthed

fish. Nevertheless, an on-screen caption states in English and Japanese that as soon as its identity as *Diplocaulus* is confirmed, the full footage will be released (but as far as I'm aware, no such release has occurred so far). The remainder of the video shows what seems to be the earlier pink apparent toy *Diplocaulus* resting on some vegetation (with a live wild duck of similar size close by, thus providing a useful size scale), then ending with a four-second clip of what looks like this same object floating in the water with its tail swishing from side to side,

but very plausibly caused simply by the water current moving a jointed tail on a toy.

The final alleged *Diplocaulus* video by SouldierTVSP, uploaded on 11 January 2012, has the somewhat unpromising title of 'Kinky Cryptid Sightings', and showcases an iridescent green *Diplocaulus* with an enormous head moving across a pond (located near a waterfall) at the water surface in a seemingly active manner before its huge boomerang-shaped head becomes entangled in what looks worryingly like an item of female undergarment floating there (which presumably explains the title of the video!). For these reasons alone (not to mention the wide variety of anything-but-serious videos on other cryptozoological subjects that this person has also uploaded onto YouTube), I personally find it difficult to take this video seriously. In my view, some form of self-propelled model has been filmed here – but I would love to be proved wrong!

OH, *DIPLOCAULUS*, WHAT CAN THE MATAMATA BE?

On 10 October 2015, the following photograph was tweeted to me by The Anomalist @anomalistnews, stating: "Is this a better diplocaulus hoax, or a previously unknown animal?" and "Only details on this photo is it was taken in "Asia" and was posted on Facebook".



Online photograph tweeted to me of an unequivocally *Diplocaulus*-like creature – but was it alive? (see later in this ShukerNature article for subsequently-discovered copyright credit)

Needless to say, it certainly looked like a *Diplocaulus*, no question about that, and the degree of morphological detail visible in the photograph was extensive – but was it a living animal, or was it either a very realistic model or a very skilfully photo-manipulated image?

Not surprisingly, this mystery photograph attracted considerable interest and comments on Twitter, including this thought-provoking suggestion by Facebook friend Paul Willison: "IMO, a photoshop of a hellbender or giant salamander and baby mata mata turtle", who also attached some photographs of these species in support of his opinion.

A hellbender (© Brian Gratwicke/Wikipedia CC BY 2.0)

The hellbender *Cryptobranchus alleganiensis* is North America's giant salamander, beaten in size only by the giant salamanders of China and Japan; and the mata mata or matamata *Chelus fimbriata* is a very bizarre-looking species of South American freshwater turtle.

And there is no doubt that the ostensible *Diplocaulus* in the mystery photo does embody



features from both of these species, so could that be the answer – a photographic montage or composite created by some ingenious morphing of matamata and hellbender images by person(s) unknown?



A

matamata (© Stahlkocher/Wikipedia CC BY-SA 3.0)

Spurred on by Paul's suggestion, I spent some time Google-imaging matamata turtles, hellbenders, and giant salamanders in general, in search of corresponding photos or portions of photos, as well as *Diplocaulus*, in search of matching photos of models and restorations – but nothing turned up, until...

After scrolling down to the very bottom of the umpteenth Google-image search page using the above and similar animal names as search words, suddenly the mystery photograph itself appeared!

It proved to be a photo of an exceedingly life-like *Diplocaulus* model created by expert Japanese model maker Goro Furuta. What's more, it was just one of several photos (all copyrighted to Goro) of this wonderful model that were present in a publicly-viewable album on Goro's Facebook page. This album can be viewed [here](#), and includes the following close-up photo of the model resting on someone's hand and arm:



Second photograph of Goro Furuta's excellent *Diplocaulus* model (© Goro Furuta)

Goro has prepared many additional, equally spectacular animal models, and as I swiftly became a massive fan of his work after browsing pictures of them in his several albums on Facebook depicting his work, I am delighted that he is now a Facebook friend of mine.

Incidentally, I'd like to stress here that at no point has Goro ever claimed or sought to suggest that his *Diplocaulus* model was anything other than a model - the online confusion as to whether or not the photograph of it currently

doing the internet rounds portrayed a living *Diplocaulus* is due entirely to misinformed speculation by people seeing the photo (copied from Goro's FB album and circulated online by person/s unknown) but not knowing its origin and incorrectly assuming the model to be a real animal. (Having said that, I suppose it can be viewed as a backhanded compliment to Goro's model-making expertise that his *Diplocaulus* model is so realistic that people have assumed that it was a living creature!)

The mystery of the most life-like non-living *Diplocaulus* reported online so far was a mystery no longer. In a tweet of 10 October 2015 replying to the original one by The Anomalist and to those of Paul Willison, I stated: "It's a *Diplocaulus* model, by Japanese model-maker Goro Furuta: [and then I included the link to Goro's relevant Facebook album]".



Skull and vertebrae of *Diplocaulus magnicornis* unearthed in Willbarger County, Texas; displayed at the University of Michigan's Natural History Museum (public domain)

Sadly, however, it means that this boomerang-headed amphibian remains interred within the long-vanished Permian Period, but even back there it has offered up a startling surprise. Trace fossils have been found showing a pair of flaps or membranes linking the tips of its head's tabular horns to its body – in other words, *Diplocaulus* may not have been outwardly boomerang-headed as traditionally assumed, but might well instead have resembled in life the restoration depicted at the end of this ShukerNature blog article, on display at the University of Michigan's Natural History Museum.

If so, then any videos or future photos of purported living *Diplocaulus* specimens that possess a boomerang-shaped head can swiftly be discounted (always assuming, of course, that an evolved modern-day *Diplocaulus* did not develop one during its 250-million-year continued evolution since the Permian?).

For now, however, all of this is academic, because *Diplocaulus* is still defunct, but it remains one of my favourite prehistoric creatures too – even if it has lost its boomerang!

Modern reconstruction of *Diplocaulus magnicornis*, exhibiting membranes enclosing its tabular horns; displayed at the University of Michigan's Natural History Museum (public domain)

4 comments:

1. Elvee Kaye 12 October 2015 at 03:05

Definitely one of the most bizarre looking amphibians that ever evolved!

2. Beetle Boy 12 October 2015 at 17:18



Great post.

I like how Goro Furuta's model seemed reminiscent of a mata-mata turtle. An interesting reconstruction.



3. Tyler Houck 12 October 2015 at 19:06

Great post Karl. I'd heard of *Diplocaulus* before, but didn't really know that much about it. Interesting stuff!



4. José Carlos (Onix) 13 October 2015 at 23:36

I love the *diplocaulus*, it's my favourite ancient amphibian in the world and would be extremely happy to see one alive, even if it's not a hammerhead anymore. Great article Doctor.

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By Charlie Hintz on October 6, 2015

In his new book *Frustrated Witness*, author Willis Morgan details evidence which he believes is proof that Wisconsin serial killer Jeffrey Dahmer murdered Adam Walsh.



Did Jeffrey Dahmer murder Adam Walsh in 1981?

Adam Walsh, the 6-year-old son of *America's Most Wanted* host John Walsh, was abducted from the toy aisle of a Sears in Hollywood, Florida on July 27, 1981. His severed head was found weeks later.

Convicted serial killer Ottis Toole, who was known for confessing to murders he did not commit, confessed to the murder of Adam Walsh in 1983. Due to a botched investigation, Toole died in prison before police closed the case and named him the killer.

But in July of 1981 Wisconsin cannibal Jeffrey Dahmer was living in nearby Miami Beach.

Willis Morgan, former press-room supervisor of the *Miami Herald*, was also at Sears that day, and witnessed a young blonde man disappear into the toy aisle. When news of Walsh's abduction hit the news, Morgan knew exactly who was responsible. He went to police with his description of the man, but they didn't take him seriously.

When Dahmer was arrested in Milwaukee in 1991, Morgan immediately recognized him from that day. It turns out several other Florida parents also found familiarity in the mugshot...as that man had attempted to nab their children, as well.

Ever since, Morgan has been digging through court records and interviewing witnesses to prove the truth that he believes police have ignored. He details these findings in his new book *Frustrated Witness: The True Story of the ADAM WALSH Case and Police Misconduct*.

From the description:

When six-year-old Adam Walsh was abducted from the Hollywood Mall on July 27, 1981, and his severed head found at the Florida Turnpike, no one could have guessed that it would take police almost thirty years to find the culprit or that even then they had still got it all so wrong. Willis Morgan was an eye witness at the mall the day Adam was taken, but rather than feel relief when the Hollywood Police Department finally convicted serial killer Ottis Toole in 2008, he felt sick and frustrated. Frustrated that a young child was snatched from right in front of him. Frustrated that evidence, leads and witness testimony were lost. Frustrated that

eyewitness testimony of Jeffrey Dahmer being at the Hollywood Mall the same day was disregarded. Frustrated because there was a compelling wall of evidence that it was Jeffrey Dahmer, the Milwaukee Cannibal, who killed Adam, and not Toole. And most of all frustrated because no justice has yet been served for Adam Walsh. In his book "Frustrated Witness", Morgan details his unnerving encounter with serial killer Jeffrey Dahmer in the mall, the other eyewitness accounts of that fateful day and major flaws in the police investigation. "This is the account of Adam Walsh's abduction and my attempts stretching across decades to find justice for him," Morgan writes. "As much as this book is a case for Jeffrey Dahmer being Adam's murderer, it is equally a study of how the Hollywood Police Department (HPD) conducted the homicide investigation." Morgan has left no stone unturned in his quest for the truth and "Frustrated Witness" includes an incredible array of evidence he gathered, piece by painstaking piece, to prove Dahmer committed the murder of Adam Walsh. This includes crime scenes he uncovered, police investigative reports he researched, an analysis of suspect composites and even the sordid details of Dahmer's murky past before he came to be known as America's most notorious serial killer who dismembered, ate or kept parts of his victims. "Frustrated Witness" not only implicates Dahmer but presents the facts to the court of public opinion, in the hope that it ultimately brings about justice for Adam Walsh.

2 Comments

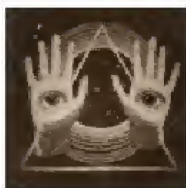


1. Willis Morgan

October 8, 2015 at 10:00 pm

My name is Willis Morgan; I am not only the author of FRUSTRATED WITNESS! I am also one of the witnesses that were at the Hollywood Mall the day Adam was abducted.

I would like to thank you for posting this article and helping to get justice for Adam Walsh.



• d keane

October 12, 2015 at 12:23 pm

I can only imagine what an ordeal this has been for you since that fateful day in the Hollywood Mall. I myself strongly doubted that Ottis Toole abducted the child. Thank you for your efforts on behalf of Adam and his family, and I hope your book brings the truth to light.

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Did Nero fiddle while Rome burned?

Thursday 22nd May 2014

historyextra.com

The fifth Roman Emperor is among the most despised figures from history for his horrific cruelty to early Christians and, as the legend goes, for playing the fiddle while Rome was consumed by fire

To 'fiddle while Rome burned' is now used to criticise someone who is worrying about trivial things while neglecting to act on more serious matters. Nero was blamed for not caring while his people suffered and for being useless in a crisis. But did it actually happen?

In the summer of AD 64, a massive fire devastated Rome for six days. Half the city's population was made homeless and the conflagration – according to the contemporary Roman historian, Tacitus – destroyed 70% of the buildings. As panic set in, rumours thrived that Nero ordered the fire to be started so that he could rebuild the city in the way he wanted. The people of Rome wanted someone to blame, and so the musical story emerged. But there are several issues with its veracity...

The most important problem is that the fiddle hadn't been invented yet, and wouldn't emerge for a millennium. Nero was a passionate lover of music and gifted on the cithara, a stringed instrument like a lyre, but there was no way he was playing a fiddle.

Secondly, when the fire started, Nero was not in Rome. He was at his villa at Antium, on the outskirts of the city. On hearing the news, he rushed back to coordinate emergency relief – he even opened his own gardens as a shelter for homeless Romans. Nero blamed Christians for the fire, leading to horrific persecution and executions, but in the aftermath, he started to build on the ruins. This confirmed to many that he was responsible, and the story took hold. Over the centuries, the cithara was replaced by a fiddle.

His behaviour during the fire may not have been as cruel and sadistic as the fiddle story implies, but Nero was certainly not a popular ruler. Four years later, he was declared an enemy of the state and he committed suicide by pushing a dagger through his throat.

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Posted 10:06 am, November 11, 2015, by CNN Wire, Updated at 10:35am, November 11, 2015

SAN ANTONIO — Norman Kleiss lives in a modest apartment in San Antonio. When I first reached him on the telephone, I almost started to shake. It was like going back in time. I could hear the engines roar over the Pacific Ocean; the tide of World War II was about to change.

“So you want to talk about the Battle of Midway?” Kleiss asked. Boy, did I.

It’s incredible that still living among us is this amazing American war hero. Norman Jack “Dusty” Kleiss is 99 years old. What did he do in the war? With fuel running low, gunshots firing from below, he successfully bombed two Japanese aircraft carriers in a surprise attack — the start of what later became known as the Battle of Midway. In all, four Japanese carriers were destroyed and the course of the war in the Pacific was forever changed.

Like many men my age, I am fascinated by World War II stories. I couldn’t believe I was getting to meet this courageous man. Our interview was arranged through Kleiss’ youngest daughter, Jill, who flew in from California. We set up our cameras in the living room. Kleiss, with the help of a walker, came out of the bedroom singing a Navy drinking song.

He closed his eyes at times, recalling those historic events. I felt like closing my eyes, too — imagining the danger the pilots faced coming in alone in the face of ship guns and Japanese Zeros.

They call him Dusty

Kleiss grew up in Coffeyville, Kansas. As a boy he once got very upset with a teacher who Kleiss says pulled the hair of a fellow student. So Kleiss and a friend launched snowballs at the teacher, knocking her to the floor. He was suspended for a week. But the episode revealed skills — boldness and good aim — that would later aid him in his military career.

Why does everybody call him “Dusty”? A year before Midway, in 1941, Kleiss was attempting to land a plane on a field in Hawaii. Thinking he had been given the green light from the tower, Kleiss was startled to see Marine planes blocking the runway as he came in for a landing. He swerved into a pile of clay, and heard the controller bellow on the radio “Unknown dust cloud! Who the hell are you?”

It would not be the last time Dusty and his plane would arrive by surprise.

In the weeks before the Battle of Midway, Dusty was promoted to the top squadron of fliers, after braving anti-aircraft fire with a malfunctioning plane.

June 4, 1942

The United States had broken the Japanese communication code. American ships, including

Dusty's vessel, the Enterprise, searched for hours for the opposition fleet, which was headed toward Midway Island. Finally, U.S. planes spotted four Japanese aircraft carriers with support ships.

First the U.S. torpedo pilots went on suicide-like missions, up against overwhelming Japanese firepower. Shortly after, Dusty's Dauntless Douglas dive bombers arrived on the scene. The unsuspecting Japanese carriers were changing bombs below deck. They were caught completely unaware.

Kleiss and his pilots targeted the Kaga first. The first few dive bombers missed. Kleiss was the second to hit.

He knew where to place the bombs. "I went up to 20,000 feet, and I looked at the red big circle," he said. The first 500-pound bomb set numerous airplanes on fire. His main bomb went four decks below, hitting long lance torpedos. Kleiss barely missed the ocean pulling out of a dive as the Kaga erupted into an inferno. A Japanese Zero immediately challenged him, but tail gunner John Snowden shot it down.

They barely made it back to the Enterprise. Incredible as it sounds, Kleiss said he followed his flight with a sandwich and coffee, then a brief nap while planes roared overhead. Then he took off for an attack on another Japanese carrier, the Hiryu. That ship was using evasive maneuvers. But what's important as a dive bomber, Kleiss said, is to figure out not where a ship is, but where it's going. Again he looked for the red circle on the ship, zoomed down and scored a direct hit.

"It was a bonfire that could be seen 10 miles away."

During our chat, the humble Kleiss told me, "I figure God in his mercy has given me the ability to do certain things." I asked how he really did it; how did he survive hair-raising dives in the heat of a major battle? "I think other people feel heat and pain far more than I do," he replied.

When the battle ended, the Japanese had lost four carriers. The United States had lost one: the Yorktown.

Midway crippled the Japanese threat on the Pacific. I asked Kleiss if he felt he was a hero.

Kleiss laughed. "I'm anything but a hero. I don't hate the Japanese at all. I was only doing what at the time was the proper thing to do."

During his time at war, Kleiss kept a Navy log book. He wrote down simple things like "attacked Japanese carrier." And he wrote often to his girlfriend, who waited three years for him to come home from military service. He could not break secrecy codes and tell her of his dangerous missions. Midway was Dusty's last war mission. It wasn't long before he married Jean in Las Vegas in 1942 — a marriage that lasted until Jean passed away in 2006.

"She was three times as smart as me, that's for sure," he said.

At 99, Kleiss needs to take eye medication. The eyes that could spot ships miles away during

the war have started to fail him. His mind is slowing down as well; some war stories can veer into tales from his childhood. But he is still able to elicit a laugh from an audience. Years ago, he said, his family would take him on roller coasters. While they all screamed, Dusty said he fell asleep. "BOORRRING!" he told me.

Kleiss is proud of what he and his fellow soldiers did during the war, but doesn't boast of his Midway bombing runs.

"Regardless of anything that happened to me, God would give me enough strength if I worked hard enough, long enough, that I would be able to accomplish something to preserve the United States of America."

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Dog Steals Pizza, Tries Setting Place On Fire To Destroy Evidence

Sebastian Murdock

Posted: 11/13/2015 12:40 PM EST | Edited: 11/13/2015 12:45 PM EST

huffingtonpost.com

Dog Steals Pizza, Tries Setting Place On Fire To Destroy Evidence

Bad dog!

For your viewing pleasure....wait for it....and please share if you would like.
Enjoy!Katie O'Neill- LeClerc Pj O'Neill Julia Galuppo

Posted by Gary LeClerc on Sunday, September 27, 2015

A dog's plot to steal a slice of pizza before setting a home on fire was foiled when two quick-thinking humans came to the rescue.

The daring September heist was captured on surveillance video by owner Gary LeClerc, but is only now making its viral rounds.

The suspect, identified as 2-year-old chocolate lab Brookfield, can be seen rooting through one of two pizza boxes hoping to nab his treasure. In the process, Brookfield turns on the stove, and moments later the box catches on fire.

LeClerc and his wife were quick to the rescue, putting out the blaze after it burned for approximately 30 seconds. Investigators believe the fire was started as both a diversion, and to destroy any existing evidence.

It's unknown at this time if the other dogs featured in the video were accomplices to the crime, though it does appear they are acting as lookout.

Brookfield has been charged with being a bad dog and could face a hefty time-out or a swat on the snout with a newspaper.

The investigation is ongoing.

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Credit Illustration by Boris Pelcer

The Doomsday Scam

For decades, aspiring bomb makers — including ISIS — have desperately tried to get their hands on a lethal substance called red mercury. There's a reason that they never have.

By C. J. CHIVERS NOV. 19, 2015

Inside

The hunt for the ultimate weapon began in January 2014, when Abu Omar, a smuggler who fills shopping lists for the Islamic State, met a jihadist commander

in Tal Abyad, a Syrian town near the Turkish border. The Islamic State had raised its black flag over Tal Abyad several days before, and the commander, a former cigarette vendor known as Timsah, Arabic for “crocodile,” was the area’s new security chief. The Crocodile had an order to place, which he said he had received from his bosses in Mosul, a city in northwestern Iraq that the Islamic State would later overrun.

Abu Omar, a Syrian whose wispy beard hinted at his jihadist sympathies, was young, wiry and adaptive. Since war erupted in Syria in 2011, he had taken many noms de guerre — including Abu Omar — and found a niche for himself as a freelance informant and trader for hire in the extremist underground. By the time he met the Crocodile, he said, he had become a valuable link in the Islamic State’s local supply chain. Working from Sanliurfa, a Turkish city north of the group’s operational hub in Raqqa, Syria, he purchased and delivered many of the common items the martial statelet required: flak jackets, walkie-talkies, mobile phones, medical instruments, satellite antennas, SIM cards and the like. Once, he said, he rounded up 1,500 silver rings with flat faces upon which the world’s most prominent terrorist organization could stamp its logo. Another time, a French jihadist hired him to find a Turkish domestic cat; Syrian cats, it seemed, were not the friendly sort.

War materiel or fancy; business was business. The Islamic State had needs, it paid to have them met and moving goods across the border was not especially risky. The smugglers used the same well-established routes by which they had helped foreign fighters reach Syria for at least three years. Turkish border authorities did not have to be eluded, Abu Omar said. They had been co-opted. “It is easy,” he boasted. “We bought the soldiers.”

The shadowy weaponeer’s
little helper, red mercury
was the unobtainium
of the post-Soviet world.

This time, however, the Crocodile had an unusual request: The Islamic State, he said, was shopping for red mercury.

Abu Omar knew what this meant. Red mercury — precious and rare, exceptionally dangerous and exorbitantly expensive, its properties unmatched by any compound known to science — was the stuff of doomsday daydreams. According to well-traveled tales of its potency, when detonated in combination with conventional high explosives, red mercury could create the city-flattening blast of a nuclear bomb. In

Dave Cushman

SC 1 day ago

Wasn't red mercury the WMD we found in Iraq?
I knew it.

Yea, look at THOSE gullible fools.

Cogito

State of Mind 1 day ago

The first thing that came to my mind from seeing "red mercury" is cinnabar, mercury sulfide, a red compound. Cinnabar also constituted a scam of sorts, as (among other uses) it had a reputation in ancient China as an alchemical longevity agent, and resulted in the poisoning of some who pursued that avenue of knowledge by taking it over a long term.

Cogito

State of Mind 1 day ago

Fascinating. It's somehow encouraging to know that jihadi's can be scammed and fooled - and suggests a possibly underutilized mode of attack on the movement. Although, as scams go, the scam of red mercury is small stuff compared to how Bush/Cheney/Rice/Wolfowitz & the whole crew of neocons scammed our nation into the ruinous and stupid second war in Iraq.

jcs

nj 1 day ago

Trey Gowdy will start his congressional committee hearings about the doomsday bombs made with red mercury as soon as he gets back from his next fund raising junket. He was called out for wasting millions on the Benghazi nonsense and now he needs a new fear mongering topic to waste money and we all know science is for scientists.

Mark

Long Beach, Ca 1 day ago

Perhaps we should have saved this article for April Fool's day? Besides the comically non-sensical chemistry even the personal names are silly... such as "Abu Suleiman al-Kurdi" (which translates as something like Father Suleiman the Kurd)

Sameer

India 1 day ago

We are lucky Islam does not promote scientific temper!

Yuri Asian

Bay Area 1 day ago

Let's laugh until we cry. Our punch line is wispy beards -- men with no chance of anything in their lives other than killing and being killed, pawns in a petroleum crusade rendered obsolete by fracking, raging in blind hate, vicious as any sentient creature whipped by their own until pain becomes a unifying dull throb

of sinister collective vengeance. Their punch line is WMDs in the desert, American sheep herded by wolves with advanced degrees from Harvard, Yale, men of great learning and superior knowledge with the mightiest military force in human history, utterly defeated by our own arrogance and stupidity. Wasting lives -- our own and theirs -- and squandering any hard won moral standing and a generation's worth of public wealth. Cheney, Bush, Wolfowitz, Rumsfeld have left us a nation of snarling, quarrelsome sheep, deeper in debt, divided, delusional, and spiritually dimmed. So diminished that even good people find solace in this fairy tale of jihadists of our own creation witlessly searching for the magic sword that strikes dead the infidel authors of their bleak fate where suicide is their best career option. We laugh at the folly of red mercury. But the wispy beards chuckle at how we ignited the jihad for them, how furiously futile our military might is, how deeply divided we've become as a people. If there's a last laugh here, only a staggering fool would claim it.

ML

La Coruna, Spain 1 day ago

This is terrible! How could the NY Times publish this? Revealing that this is a hoax will gravely affect ongoing Middle Eastern operations to bankrupt ISIS. You know they reach for this newspaper first while quaffing their beer after a hard day of dodging missiles, and now they'll know to invest their hard-stolen funds in green mercury instead. Shameful!

John DesMarteau

Washington DC 1 day ago

Actually I'm surprised no one mentioned cinnabar or mercury sulfide from which most elemental mercury is derived. Although quite toxic, because it's red it has been used as a rouge cosmetic in the past even though the Romans were aware of the dangers. You can read about it here: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cinnabar> Of course it's nothing like the "red mercury" that the Daesh dimwits lust after. That they're taken in is no different than those phishing emails from Nigerian princes with millions of dollars they will happily share with you if only you send them \$3,000 for expenses. Oh well, if Daesh wants to spend its money on illusory WMDs, I say go for it.

Anabelle Rothschild

Santa Monica, CA 1 day ago

An opportunity missed. The CIA should have made some red mercury, using raspberry gelatin as the nefarious substance sans sugar and flavor, available on the Russian black market then staged a meeting, rounded up all the buyers and made them disappear by sending them to the Red Planet where they can mine all they want.

Matt Hunt

Tulsa 1 day ago

Red mercury actually has a far older history than this article. It is talked about in John Dee's alchemy work when he was the Court Magician for Queen Elizabeth. Edward Kelly claimed to have "red mercury" as part of their work on the Philosopher's Stone; their work on transmutation of lead into gold. This was back in the last 1500's...Dee and Kelly were really early chemists assigning "mystical" properties to various elements not knowing what we know now.

Anon.

US 1 day ago

The real stockpiles of a metaphorical red mercury is in Pakistan which is closer, easier, readily available and last but not the least real. These aspirations are disturbing, not least because there is a mass support for group that wants to do something of this nature. The article is well researched and well written, even entertaining and hopefully it will remain as that.

Steve Fankuchen

Oakland, CA 1 day ago

You used to be able to commonly find a red Mercury in front of rural Dairy Queens. Perhaps terrorists whose English was a bit lacking heard Alan Jackson sing "Crazy bout a Mercury" and got the wrong idea.

Pan hopes in his or her comment that Ben Carson does not read this article before opening his mouth on the subject. (My phrasing, not Pan's.) It probably does not matter if Carson has already read this story. Likely he has read stories about global warning and the age of the earth without it affecting his "thinking."

As to Manhattan project alumni Samuel Cohen's "belief" in red mercury, perhaps it was part of a smart, government disinformation plan. Or, perhaps, like other people a half century after doing their best work, his thinking is not what it used to be.

As an aside: excellent reads on the evolution of scientific culture as it evolved from an international fraternity to nationalistic government (and corporate) endeavors -- resulting largely from nuclear energy discoveries -- are Robert Jungk's "Brighter Than a Thousand Suns" and Noel Davis' "Lawrence and Oppenheimer."

Horace Dewey

NYC 1 day ago

If any who seek to do us harm happen to see this, they should know that our supplies of 1) Lint intra umbilicus, 2) pollicem fungus and 3) auribus cera are completely well protected and impossible to access. Don't waste your time.

Slack

B'lo, NY 1 day ago

Forget red mercury! Let's find those spectacles that enable the wearer to see through clothing...and the 100mpg carburettor that the oil companies have kept off the market

RMS

CO1 day ago

Red mercury is a joint buyer-seller scam on backers who don't know the power of conventional explosives.

Barry

Virginia 1 day ago

I think I see an NCIS episode here.

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another application, a famous nuclear scientist once suggested it could be used as a component in a neutron bomb small enough to fit in a sandwich-size paper bag.

Abu Omar understood the implications. The Islamic State was seeking a weapon that could do more than strike fear in its enemies. It sought a weapon that could kill its enemies wholesale, instantly changing the character of the war. Imagine a mushroom cloud rising over the fronts of Syria and Iraq. Imagine the jihadists' foes scattered and ruined, the caliphate expanding and secure.

Imagine the price the Islamic State would pay.

Abu Omar thought he might have a lead. He had a cousin in Syria who told him about red mercury that other jihadists had seized from a corrupt rebel group. Maybe he could arrange a sale. And so soon Abu Omar set out, off for the front lines outside Latakia, a Syrian government stronghold, in pursuit of the gullible man's shortcut to a nuclear bomb.

To approach the subject of red mercury is to journey into a comic-book universe, a zone where the stubborn facts of science give way to unverifiable claims, fantasy and outright magic, and where villains pursuing the dark promise of a mysterious weapon could be rushing headlong to the end of the world. This is all the more remarkable given the broad agreement among nonproliferation specialists that red mercury, at least as a chemical compound with explosive pop, does not exist.

Legends of red mercury's powers began circulating by late in the Cold War. But their breakout period came after the Soviet Union's demise, when disarray and penury settled over the Kremlin's arms programs. As declining security fueled worries of illicit trafficking, red mercury embedded itself in the lexicon of the freewheeling black-market arms bazaar. Aided by credulous news reports, it became an arms trafficker's marvelous elixir, a substance that could do almost anything a shady client might need: guide missiles, shield objects from radar, equip a rogue underdog state or terrorist group with weapons rivaling those of a superpower. It was priced accordingly, at hundreds of thousands of dollars a kilogram. With time, the asking price would soar.

As often happens with durable urban legends, the red-mercury meme found just enough public support to assure an unextinguishable life. Chief among its proponents was Samuel T. Cohen, the American physicist and Manhattan Project veteran often called the father of the neutron bomb, who before his death in 2010 spoke vividly of the perils of nuclear terrorism and what he said was poor government preparation for such attacks. Cohen joined the red-mercury bandwagon as it gathered momentum in the early 1990s, staking a lonely position by asserting that the substance could be used to build nuclear weapons of exceptionally small size.

In one edition of his autobiography, he claimed red mercury was manufactured by "mixing special nuclear materials in very small amounts into the ordinary compound and then inserting the mixture into a nuclear reactor or bombarding it with a particle-accelerator beam." The result, he said, "is a remarkable nonexploding high explosive" that, when detonated, becomes "extremely hot, which allows pressures and temperatures to be built up that are capable of igniting the heavy hydrogen and producing a pure-fusion mini neutron bomb." Here was a proliferation threat of an order never before seen.

The establishment largely dismissed him. "If he did ever reveal evidence, I never saw it," said Peter D. Zimmerman, a nuclear physicist who served as chief scientific adviser for the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency at the time. He added, "I would have seen it, at that point in history." Jeffrey Lewis, a nonproliferation analyst at the James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies in Monterey, Calif., put matters less delicately, saying Cohen followed a classic formula for conspiracy theories, mixing "nonscientific mumbo jumbo" with allegations that governments were withholding the truth. "I could never figure out where Sam Cohen the physicist ended and Sam Cohen the polemicist began," he said.

Russian news organizations in the 1990s nevertheless relayed claims of red mercury's destructive potential at face value, and foreign news outlets occasionally repeated them, boosting the material's



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credibility and mystique. Britain's Channel 4 elevated the material's profile with two documentaries — "Trail of Red Mercury" and "Pocket Neutron" — that presented, according to their producers, "startling evidence that Russian scientists have designed a miniature neutron bomb using a mysterious compound called red mercury." Cohen held a news conference after one broadcast to say it confirmed his fears.

Outside this circle of the faithful, red mercury faced doubters. The substance was almost everything but scientifically verifiable. It was not even reasonably explicable. "Over all it doesn't make much sense," an engineer at Los Alamos National Laboratory wrote to a supervisor in 1994. It was also devilishly elusive, turning up in tales of smuggling mafias but never quite finding its way to a law-enforcement body or nuclear agency for proper frisking. When hopeful sellers were caught, substance in hand, it reliably turned out to be something else, sometimes a placebo of chuckle-worthy simplicity: ordinary mercury mixed with dye. The shadowy weaponeer's little helper, it was the unobtainium of the post-Soviet world.

Among specialists who investigated the claims, the doubts hardened to an unequivocal verdict: Red mercury was a lure, the central prop of a confidence game designed to fleece ignorant buyers. "Take a bogus material, give it an enigmatic name, exaggerate its physical properties and intended uses, mix in some human greed and intrigue, and *voilà*: one half-baked scam," the Department of Energy's Critical Technologies Newsletter declared. In 1998, 15 authors from the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, which helps maintain the American nuclear-weapons stockpile, published an article in *The Journal of Radioanalytical and Nuclear Chemistry* that called red mercury "a relatively notorious nuclear hoax." In 1999, *Jane's Intelligence Review* suggested that the scam's victims may have included Osama bin Laden, whose Qaeda purchasing agents were "nuclear novices." The most accommodating theory held that red mercury might have been a Soviet code name for something else — maybe lithium-6, a controlled material with an actual use in nuclear weapons — and traffickers repurposed the label for whatever nuclear detritus they were trying to move.

A true believer of the legends might interject that official skepticism in public did not preclude another discussion playing out on classified channels. But when WikiLeaks published American diplomatic cables in 2010 and 2011, snippets of the internal red-mercury dialogue were consistent with the public statements. In 2006, according to one cable, Sri Lanka notified the American Embassy in Colombo of concerns that the Tamil Tigers, a secessionist militant group, had tried to procure the substance. "Red Mercury is a well-known scam material," a State Department nonproliferation official told the embassy. "There is nothing to be concerned about."

Few people are more familiar with the lingering red-mercury assertions than Zimmerman, who later became director of the Center for Science and Security Studies at King's College in London. For years, he canvassed his peers in nuclear-weapons and nonproliferation communities. He asked about the substance in conferences. He brought it up in one-on-one sessions with weaponeers from multiple countries and scientists from the former Communist bloc. He concluded that the substance was not just "hot air, myth, smoke and mirrors" but also "a con job."

When I called him, he laughed and referred to people convinced of its powers as "Red Mercurians." Some of the stories he'd heard, he said, resembled "an old Jack Benny routine." He paused to be straightforward and clear. Red mercury (or, for that matter, any mercury compound of any color), he said, had no nuclear-weapons application of any sort. The particulars of its supposed martial utility do not square with basic science. "It cannot be true," he said, and spoke as if restating a longstanding challenge. "I have plenty of times staked my reputation on these statements, and no one has ever called me on it."

And yet a generation after the hype first burned bright, shopworn legends of red mercury's powers,

lodged in fringe provinces of the popular imagination, continue to surface, rekindled by shifting casts of jihadists, tomb looters, smugglers, journalists, YouTube salesmen and other wannabe profiteers. One thing about red mercury: If it's not nuclear, it's viral.

Abu Omar had joined a long line of players. It was impossible not to wonder: Did he really believe in red mercury himself?

When the Crocodile placed his order, Abu Omar said, the smuggler asked how much the Islamic State was willing to pay. The answer was vague. The Islamic State would pay, he said, "whatever was asked." This was not the practical guidance a businessman needs. So the Crocodile sharpened the answer. Up to \$4 million — and a \$100,000 bonus — for each unit of red mercury matching that shown in a set of photographs he sent to Abu Omar over WhatsApp, the mobile-messaging service.

The images showed a pale, oblong object, roughly the length of a hot-dog bun, with a hole at each end. It bore no similarity to the red mercury that smugglers often described — a thick liquid with a brilliant metallic sheen. It appeared to be a dull piece of injection-molded plastic, like a swim-lane buoy or a children's toy. But it had an intriguing resemblance that hinted at how the Islamic State's interest might have been piqued: It was the exact likeness of an object that in 2013 the Cihan News Agency, one of Turkey's largest news agencies, had called a red-mercury rocket warhead.

To approach the subject
of red mercury is to
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universe, a zone where
the stubborn facts of
science give way to fantasy.

In that case, three men were said to have been arrested near Kayseri, a city in central Turkey. Cihan's coverage followed the familiar arc of red-mercury hype. Footage shot at night showed officials in protective suits and masks approaching a van. The news presenter reported the operation in matter-of-fact tones, noting that the seized rocket component "was examined by six different institutions, including the Turkish Atomic Energy Authority, all of which found that it contained the material red mercury. The liquid can cause large explosions and is worth \$1 million per liter. Red mercury is used for intercontinental rocket systems and hydrogen bombs."

With that validation, the photographs traveled on social media, finding their way to the Islamic State and then to Abu Omar, who said he remembered something he had heard from his cousin in Syria, a fighter for Jabhat al-Nusra, the Qaeda affiliate and bitter Islamic State rival. This cousin, he said, had told him that Nusra fighters had taken red-mercury warheads from a now-defunct rebel group, Ghuraba al-Sham, which the jihadists had overpowered in 2013, executing its leaders. The warheads that the Nusra fighters confiscated, Abu Omar said, matched those in the Crocodile's photographs.

Not long after leaving Tal Abyad, Abu Omar said, he tracked down his cousin near the front lines outside Latakia to arrange a sale. The plan quickly tanked. His cousin, he said, suspected Abu Omar was shopping for the Islamic State. He refused to discuss terms. "I want you to end this talk about red mercury because I know where it is going to go," Abu Omar recalled his cousin saying. "I know ISIS wants them. But we will never sell."

Abu Omar was describing all this in the lobby of a Turkish hotel, where he appeared one night this fall after several phone calls and chat sessions. His stories were more than far-fetched; they were confounding. Anyone with an Internet connection could quickly discover that the red-mercury meme was widely regarded as nonsense. Even a visit to Wikipedia — whose entry on the subject began, "Red mercury is a hoax substance of uncertain composition" — would surely be enough to raise questions for anyone disbursing Islamic State cash. I told Abu Omar that I had spoken with several nonproliferation experts, and they roundly agreed: Red mercury was a scam. Did he believe otherwise?

Abu Omar listened patiently. His face gave nothing away. Then he replied politely, as if addressing the uninformed. "I have seen it with my own eyes," he said.

Two years before in Ras al-Ain, another Syrian border town, Abu Omar said, he was with a group of Islamic fighters that organized a test with 3.5 grams of liquid red mercury and a container of chlorine. The experiment was led by Abu Suleiman al-Kurdi, who commanded a small fighting group that has since joined the Islamic State. Al-Kurdi gathered the jihadists around his materials as the test began. "I will count to 10, and whoever stays in the room after that suffocates and dies," he warned.

The chlorine was held in a foil-lined container, Abu Omar said. As the group watched, al-Kurdi dipped a needle into the red mercury and then touched the needle to the chlorine, transferring a drop. "Everything interacted with everything," Abu Omar said, and a foul vapor rose. All of the fighters were driven away, first from the room, then from the house.

The powers of red mercury, Abu Omar said, were real.

Almost every aspect of this story, like so many other breathless accounts of red mercury, was unverifiable. And even if something did happen in that room, the noxious vapors could have a simple explanation: Chlorine alone damages the respiratory tract and can be deadly if inhaled.

But Abu Omar had answered the question. He stood firmly in the red-mercury camp. He was hardly alone.

'In previous generations,
old women wore it in a
necklace to keep the devil's
eye away,' one smuggler said.

Safi al-Safi, an unaffiliated rebel and small-time smuggler specializing in weapons, antiquities and forged documents, sat in an open-air cafe beside the Syrian-Turkish border. He was smoking scented tobacco from a water pipe while discussing the cross-border mercury trade. "Red mercury has a red color, and there is mercury that has the color of dark blood," he said. "And there is green mercury, which is used for sexual enhancement, and silver mercury is used for medical purposes. The most expensive type is called Blood of the Slaves, which is the darkest type. Magicians use it to summon jinni."

This primer — passionate, thorough, outlandish to its core — fits a type. In meetings with smugglers in several towns along the border, red mercury inhabited the fertile mental terrain where fear and distrust of authority meet superstitious folklore. Descriptions of the material varied slightly in detail and sharply in price, and there were ample contradictions. But there was a remarkable consistency in several intricate legends and origin stories, even among people who did not know one another and who were separated by many miles.

Another smuggler, Faysal, who said he was awaiting results of vetting by the United States government to join a Pentagon-backed force opposing the Islamic State (the program has since been dropped), continued the lesson. "It has two different types: hot and cold," he said. The cold form, which other smugglers sometimes call "spiritual mercury," he said, "can be found in Roman graveyards." He added: "Kings and princes and sultans used to take it to the graves with them."

This type of red mercury, the smugglers said, has been recovered by Middle Eastern grave robbers for at least several decades. "In previous generations, old women wore it in a necklace to keep the devil's eye away," Faysal said. More recently, rich men shopped for cold red mercury as either an aphrodisiac or to improve their sexual performance.

The substance was so valuable that dishonest traders, al-Safi said, often trafficked in fake red mercury. "In my village at least 15 people trade in it," he said. "They buy normal mercury, and they color it. They

use red lipstick and put a little on a spoon and heat the spoon until it turns to powder, and you put the powder in the mercury, and you mix it, and it becomes that color. This is how you cheat it.”

Identifying such cheats was easy, the smugglers said, because real red mercury is attracted to gold but repelled by garlic. Wise buyers bring gold and garlic to test the product before cash changes hands. “You put a drop on a plate and you approach it with garlic, and that drop is going to move away,” a third smuggler, Abu Zaid explained. “But if you put red mercury on a plate and move a piece of gold under the plate, the red mercury is going to move with it.”

Cold red mercury, these smugglers said, could not be used for nuclear weapons; that was the role of hot red mercury, which had a more recent origin. Only sophisticated laboratories manufactured it, and the hot red mercury available in Syria had come from the Soviet Union — usually, according to Raed, another smuggler, “in a specially maintained box with equipment and a manual and special gloves.”

Abu Zaid said hot red mercury was sometimes offered for sale in Syria and could be useful for the Islamic State, which has a cadre of former Iraqi officials who would know how to harness its power. But he cautioned that buyers could easily make a grievous mistake. “It is not only about getting the red mercury,” he said. “The very small box needs special equipment to open it, and special reactors to work with it. If you open this box, a radius of eight kilometers around you will be destroyed.”

This was especially dangerous, because hot red mercury could also be harvested from junkyards and seamstress shops. Al-Safi described how this came to pass. To prevent the weapons-grade material from falling into the wrong hands during what he called “the American occupation” of the former Soviet Union, he said, Russians safeguarding the stock late in the Cold War cached tiny reservoirs of red mercury in sewing machines and radios bound for export, which were then scattered throughout the Arab world. (Another version of the same tale says that red mercury is hidden in old television sets.)

These rumors have been circulating for years, once driving prices for old sewing machines as high as \$50,000 in Saudi Arabia, according to a 2009 Reuters report. Often the most-sought-after machines were the Singer brand — which, considering that Singer was an American manufacturer, did not quite align with the Soviet fable. No matter. Abu Omar also insisted that old sewing machines were a red-mercury source. “Specific machines,” he said, “with a butterfly logo on them.” He said he knew this from experience because the red mercury used in the jihadists’ chlorine experiment in Ras al-Ain had come from his grandmother’s machine.

‘Over all it doesn’t make much sense,’ an engineer at Los Alamos National Laboratory wrote in 1994.

If all of this seems like a bad and ever-expanding joke, it can work that way. When I mentioned the garlic-and-gold tests and red mercury’s supposed qualities as a sexual stimulant to Peter Zimmerman, the nuclear physicist, his answer came quickly. “Take that with a grain of red mercury,” he said.

Jokes may be as useful a means as any of understanding red mercury, considering another origin theory that has made the rounds for years: that the hoax has roots in an intelligence-service put-on, a disinformation campaign of phony news articles planted decades ago in Russian newspapers by the K.G.B. and one of its successors, the F.S.B.

There are other variants of this story, including one in which Washington and Moscow collaborated in circulating red-mercury stories to flush out nuclear smugglers and to waste terrorists’ time. American soldiers and officers in bomb-disposal and counter-W.M.D. jobs shared that version with me, although, once again, no one had evidence for its veracity. It was something that they had heard on their jobs and a story they admitted that they liked — the thinking being that if the Four Lions wanted to shop for photon torpedoes, let them shop; that would be preferable to how the Islamic State otherwise spends its

time. (Abu Omar, for example, said the Islamic State had also sought his help in abducting Western journalists.)

And yet the U.S. military and its allies, too, had found themselves expending resources on the hoax. In early 2011, a European military unit in Afghanistan handed over supposed red mercury to their American colleagues at Task Force Paladin, the command charged with countering and analyzing improvised bombs. The handoff triggered an international counterproliferation response, according to several American soldiers familiar with the events and an officer who participated in the operation but requested anonymity because parts of it remain classified.

Task Force Paladin alerted the 20th Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, Explosives Command, the primary U.S. Army unit trained to eliminate threats of W.M.D., that they had an unknown substance that could be dangerous material. Back at the command's headquarters in Maryland, teams of specialists in nuclear disablement and chemical response were packed into a C-5 military-transport jet and rushed to Bagram Air Base, where they were shown two small, lead-lined containers. One was about the dimensions of a quart-size Mason jar; the other roughly the size of a pint glass.

The nuclear-disablement team went first but found no sign that the containers held anything radioactive. They then passed the job to the chemical-warfare specialists and bomb-disposal techs. External tests on the containers were inconclusive, the officer involved said, so the soldiers took up the unenviable task of breaching the vessels to find out what exactly was inside. Wearing protective suits and breathing apparatuses, they put the first lead-lined container inside an airtight glove box within what the officer called a "secure, reinforced" shipping container, and then monitored it from afar by video as the spinning bit from a remote-controlled power drill plunged through the container's soft wall. Out spilled ordinary mercury, the old standby of red-mercury scams. The second container was empty. In all, the officer said, the mercury amounted to "about a quarter or half cup."

The American soldiers quietly packed up and flew home. Their mission is memorialized in the Army's classified records with a title — Operation Chimera — that members of the American bomb-disposal community said suggested a certain sense of humor about the whole affair. How the Europeans had been deceived is not publicly known. (One American familiar with the events said a European special-forces team had been lured into a bad buy.) On that matter, the American military declined to comment.

This was hardly the worst of the hoax's real-world effects. In southern Africa, it has cost lives. According to a regional and especially cruel variation of the legend, the substance is found in conventional military munitions, particularly land mines, there to be claimed by anyone daring enough to take them apart and extract the goods. Tom Dibb, the program manager in Zimbabwe for the Halo Trust, a private mine-clearing organization, said he and the local authorities have documented people being killed in explosions while hunched over land mines or mortar bombs with hand tools.

In the bloodiest incident, in 2013, six people were killed near Harare, Zimbabwe's capital, by a blast in the home of a faith healer. One victim was an infant. Dibb spoke with the police and said "they were pretty convinced that it was a tank mine being taken apart for red mercury." In another case, which Dibb examined himself, two men were killed and another wounded as they tried harvesting land mines for red-mercury extraction from a minefield. The most recent death that the Halo Trust investigated occurred on Nov. 1, Dibb said, when a 22-year-old man, Godknows Katchekwama, was killed while trying to dismantle and remove red mercury from an R2M2, a South African antipersonnel land mine about the size of a tuna can.

The explosion outside Harare prompted Michael P. Moore, who manages the Landmines in Africa website, to start a second site, the Campaign Against Red Mercury, which documents hoaxes and urges people not to believe them. Moore said he tried tracing how the meme leapt from sewing machines to explosive devices but could not figure it out. Public-education campaigns were needed, he said, because "it's enough of a pervasive myth that it's not going to go away anytime soon. And people are dying."

The Crocodile kept inquiring about red mercury for more than a year, Abu Omar said, pressing for results. He reached out one last time on WhatsApp in June 2015. At the time, Kurds were attacking the Islamic State in Tal Abyad, and the commander also sought what he called “thermal panels” to deceive the weapons-guidance systems on American warplanes. But by November of this year, Abu Omar was still empty-handed. By then Tal Abyad had fallen to the Kurds, and the Crocodile had gone silent, leaving the quest without a sponsor for now.

Abu Omar had kept busy with other work; he said he had recently delivered 23 commercial drones to the jihadists. He remained a storehouse of red-mercury yarns. Word was that the Kurdish fighting groups opposing the Islamic State had been buying up the stuff. “People I know sold it to Kurds three times,” he said. And eight red-mercury warheads had been found in the Aleppo countryside, too. The story was similar to one from Reyhanli, another Turkish border city, where smugglers insisted that rebels in Idlib had overrun a military checkpoint and captured a few grams of red mercury. This material was said to be available for sale, although no one who said this could arrange to see it. It led to an obvious question: If Syria’s military possessed red-mercury weapons, why hadn’t it used them? Why would an imperiled force with a well-documented disregard for restraint forgo uncorking such a weapon as its garrisons fell?

If red mercury seemed a perfect fit for the particular nature of this brutal, shadowy war — an apocalyptic weapon for a terrorist group driven in part by the belief that we are approaching the return of the Mahdi, the final defeat of infidels and the end of the world — it was not making itself easy to get. All this, and the police were drawing near. In June, Turkish news agencies reported another red-mercury bust, this time of a pair of Georgians. And Abu Omar said an associate of his had managed to obtain the material, only to be arrested in Ankara before he could unload it. The authorities released him but kept his red mercury, he said, for themselves. “His phone was monitored,” Abu Omar said, and thus the bad turn.

None of this was verifiable, either. The Turkish government declined to answer questions about its red-mercury arrests over the last two years. And his friend? Abu Omar said he had fled to Sweden. He provided a link to the man’s Facebook profile, but the man was not replying to requests. You can’t be too careful in the red-mercury game.

C.J. Chivers is a reporter for The Times.

Additional reporting by Karam Shoumali.

A version of this article appears in print on November 22, 2015, on page MM35 of the Sunday Magazine with the headline: The Domsday Scam. Today's Paper|Subscribe

356 Comments

What me worry

nyc 1 day ago

Just wonder how much time the FBI, CIA, NSA spent on the topic of red mercury... don't think the jihadists are the only ones who will believe almost anything!!!

Christian Schwoerke

Manchester, UK1 day ago

*correction And why would any of us need to know this? This does not seem like good information to share, especially if it has potential to entrap people who *don't* know better (and have bad intentions). Am I foolish to think the benefits of story are outweighed by informed use of this scam to root out bad guys?

NSH

*is a trusted commenter*Chester58 minutes ago

I thought exactly the same thing.

Skip Mendler, Green Party

Honesdale PA1 day ago

Was anyone else reminded of that BREAKING BAD episode involving fulminate of mercury?

Elle

Beach on Bali1 day ago

This is why we can't rush to send ground troops into Syria. It's a new kind of war and whether red mercury is or isn't what they say it is, the intent is there to draw us in and inflict massive casualties with chemical and or nuclear type weapons. It's a different kind of war that requires a new and smarter strategy in order defeat an enemy that doesn't value human life, not even their own.

jwp-nyc

new york1 day ago

Mercury has been a favorite since ancient times as the alchemist's friend for impressing primitives. Rub a little on tarnished silver, suddenly gleaming silver in its place. These simple demonstrations impressed kings that magicians could turn their lead into gold. The downside involved the nasty manifestations of 5th century types when they realize that they've been defrauded.

AMR

NYC1 day ago

You can get bleach to do exactly what happened in the al-Kurdi demonstration with a little bit of acetic acid (vinegar). Maybe if they spent more time studying science texts than religious texts, they wouldn't fall for 19th century parlor tricks. But maybe we should perpetuate the myths instead of disprove them... If they burn up their resources searching for the Philosopher's Stone of Terror, it may prevent them from actually getting their hands on materials that can actually be a problem.

E.S.Jackson

1 day ago

It's easy to construct a world around comic-book scenarios: just start out with a magic book that tells you that you and your co-religionists are the only true rulers of the world, that your rituals and folk beliefs are the only righteous way for human beings to live, and that you have a perfect right to rule, own or destroy anything. Then add lots of young men, lots of free time, modern (i.e., almost-magic) weapons, and the chance for them to wander around blowing things up while looking for actual magic weapons. Pelzer, the illustrator, has done an excellent job of showing both the boys themselves, and the kind of mental landscape inhabited by not-very-bright, heavily armed boys.

MD

Cromwell, CT1 day ago

This reinforces my belief that ignorance and superstition are the root causes for all the trouble in this region.

Saturday, March 13, 2010

Dr. George Parkman - "The Pedestrian"

12 comments



Called "The Pedestrian" by one Boston newspaper, Dr. George Parkman was famous for his regular daily walks through town to collect rent and loan payments. He did not even own a horse, though he could have easily afforded one, coming from one of the richest families in Boston. His habits were so regular that when he failed to meet his wife for lunch November 23, 1849, it was impossible to imagine anything but foul play. Equally impossible to imagine was that the perpetrator was someone from his own social class. When his killer was found to be a former Harvard classmate and current Harvard professor, it became a society crime with a public following to rival America's greatest celebrity murders.

Date: November 23, 1849

Location: Cambridge, MA

Victim: Dr. George Parkman

Cause of Death: Stabbing

Accused: Dr. John White Webster

Synopsis:

Dr. George Parkman was a man of regular habits. Every day he could be seen walking through Beacon Hill and Boston's West End where he owned a number of rental properties. His daily routine was so predictable that his neighbors said they could set their watches by the sight of his gaunt figure rushing past. Every afternoon at 2:00 pm he met his wife for lunch. When he failed to keep this appointment on Friday, November 23, 1849, and did not return home that evening, his family suspected foul play.

That afternoon he had planned to see Dr. John Webster, a professor of chemistry at the Harvard Medical College, to discuss repayment of a loan. Dr Webster had been borrowing money, putting up his possessions as collateral. He had borrowed money from Robert Gould Shaw, Parkman's brother-in-law and business partner, using his mineral collection as collateral. Parkman was livid when he learned this because he had already loaned Webster money against the same mineral collection.

George Parkman and John Webster were both members of Boston's privileged class—the class that would later be called "Boston Brahmins"— and had known each other since



Dr. John White Webster

childhood. They had been classmates at Harvard, graduating two years apart, and Parkman had helped Webster get his position teaching there. But in appearance and attitude the two could not have been more different. Parkman was tall and slender, while Webster was short and stout. Parkman was energetic, but austere and frugal to the extreme; Webster, though somewhat dull as a professor was amiable and fond of food, drink and good company. Terrible at managing money, Webster was constantly in debt; a growing concern with three daughters approaching marrying age. He owed more than \$2400 and his annual salary was \$1200.

Parkman had studied medicine in Europe with a particular interest in mental illness. He returned to Boston anxious to implement his ideas on treatment of the mentally ill. Though he helped organize and finance the McLean Hospital, he was passed over for the office of director. Devastated by the rejection, Parkman gave up medicine and took over the family business in real estate and lending.

Dr. Parkman was last seen at the Harvard Medical College that Friday. On Saturday his family printed flyers offering a \$3000 reward for information leading to his discovery. Dr. Webster came forward and confirmed that he had met with Dr. Parkman on Friday and had, in fact, paid off one of his loans.

After meeting with Parkman, Dr. Webster had supper at a restaurant and went home. That evening he went with his family to a party where he enjoyed himself with his neighbors, playing whist and discussing the affairs of the day, including the disappearance of Dr. Parkman. In the days following Parkman's disappearance there was nothing unusual in Dr. Webster's behavior, with one exception. Webster had a long discussion with the Ephraim Littlefield, the janitor at the medical college, concerning Dr. Parkman's visit to the college on November 23. It was more than the two men had spoken in the twenty years of working at the same college. He also gave Littlefield a turkey for thanksgiving, something he had never done before.



Littlefield and his wife lived in an apartment next to Dr. Webster's laboratory. He made a small salary cleaning the professors' labs and offices, which he augmented by supplying professors and students with corpses for dissection. It was not clear whether he purchased the corpses from "resurrectionists" or dug them up himself.

What Littlefield remembered about November 23 was that Dr. Webster had kept his laboratory door locked all afternoon and that the fire in his furnace was so hot it could be felt through the wall. Littlefield was in the laboratory when the police came to question Dr. Webster and noticed that the door to his privy was

locked. When the police asked what was behind the door Webster directed their attention elsewhere.

Access to the privy was shared by the dissecting room next door. It had an opening to brick vault below the basement of the building and was used to dispose of body parts when the students were finished dissecting. Littlefield was convinced that Dr. Webster had murdered Dr. Parkman in his laboratory chopped him up and disposed of the pieces in the privy. Working on Thanksgiving Day and the day after, while his wife kept lookout, Littlefield took borrowed tools into the crawlspace under the basement and chipped through several layers of brick on the privy vault. When he finally broke through the wall and shone a lantern through the hole, he saw a man's pelvis with genitals still attached and part of a leg. He knew the students had not been dissecting that week; it had to be Dr. Parkman.



Marshal Turkey of the Boston police was notified of the find and the marshal brought a contingent of policemen to the college. They extracted the body parts from the vault and searched Dr. Webster's laboratory finding charred bones in the doctor's furnace and more body parts in a tea chest in a room adjoining the laboratory. The body parts were shown to Dr. Parkman's wife who identified them as her husband's remains from some markings on the skin and the extreme hairiness of the body.

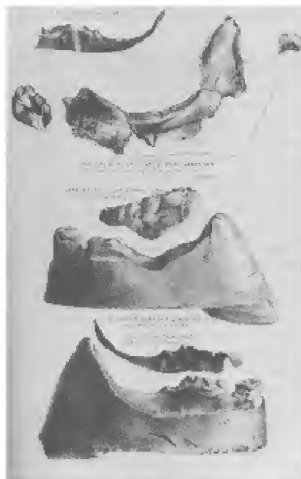
The police went to Dr. Webster's home and he agreed to accompany them to the Harvard Medical School to answer some more questions. They took him instead to the Boston jail where he was arrested for the murder of Dr. Parkman.

Trial: March 19, 1850

The trial of Dr. Webster received national and even international coverage, taking on the characteristics of the celebrity trials of the 20th Century. 60,000 Bostonians came to the courthouse to view the trial and they were admitted to the courtroom in ten minute shifts.

The prosecution had the daunting task of proving that the remains found at the medical college were, in fact, those of Dr. Parkman. A number of doctors testified that the remains were consistent with a man of Dr. Parkman's age, height and build, and that they were not the remains of a dissected corpse. Dr. Nathan Keep, Parkman's dentist, testified that a piece of dental work in the jawbone found in Webster's furnace was, without a doubt, made by him for Dr. Parkman. The first time human remains were identified in court by dental work.

The defense countered with doctors and dentists of their own who testified that the body could not be conclusively identified and that there was nothing unique in Dr. Parkman's dental work.



The most damaging witness for the prosecution was Ephraim Littlefield who told of overhearing Dr. Parkman angrily demand payment from Dr. Webster. He testified that Webster had later asked about the privy vault, whether it was possible to shine a light on what was in it. Littlefield responded that it was not, because the gasses put out the flame. And Littlefield related all of the events and suspicions that led him to investigate the vault.

At 8:00pm on March 30, 1850 the jury began deliberation; shortly after 10:00 they returned with a verdict. Dr. Webster was found guilty and sentenced to hang.

Verdict: Guilty

Aftermath:

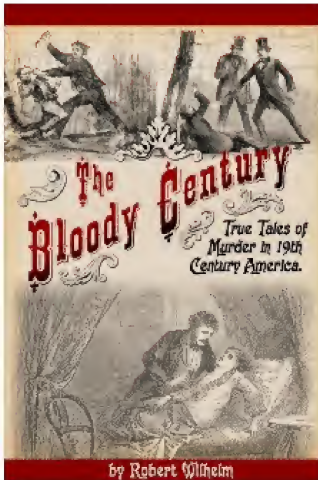
The defense filed a writ of error, claiming the judge's instructions to the jury were biased. The writ was denied. Webster asked for a full pardon and that was denied as well.

As the date of Dr. Webster's execution approached, the community – in Boston and beyond – was still divided as to his guilt. Boston authorities received letters from around the country from people opposed to hanging a man on circumstantial evidence and those generally opposed to capital punishment.

In a bid for clemency, Dr. Webster admitted to killing Dr. Parkman but in self-defense, not premeditation. Parkman, he said, had become violently angry over the loan on the mineral collection and Webster picked up a stick and fought him off. Had he intended to commit murder, Wagner said, he certainly would not have done it at the college.

Though petitions were circulated to commute his sentence, the request was refused. On August 30, 1850, Dr. Webster was publically hanged. The fall broke his neck and he was dead within four minutes. He was buried in Copp's Hill Burying Ground, in an unmarked grave to discourage grave robbers.

The case had such notoriety that when Charles Dickens came to America, one of his requests was to visit the room where George Parkman was murdered.



This is one of 50 stories featured in the new book
The Bloody Century

Sources:

Websites:

George Parkman

Walking Cinema: Murder on Beacon Hill

Forensic Science - The Webster-Parkman Case

Books:

Schama, Simon. *Dead Certainties: Unwarranted Speculations* . New York: Knopf, 1991.

Sullivan, Robert. *Disappearance of Dr. Parkman, the* . Boston: Little, Brown, 1971.

Thomson, Helen. *Murder at Harvard* . Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1971.

12 comments :

Harold Fowler says:

March 14, 2010 at 12:26 PM

Wow, that dude is kinda crazy man!

Jess

www.big-brother-watching.net.tc

Anonymous says:

March 15, 2010 at 9:17 AM

Harvard professor John Webster bludgeons and dismembers his tightfisted moneylender George Parkman, a generous benefactor of the medical college, within the school itself in November of 1849?

Fascinating, but not true. Every decisive point of this mistake-laden case, one that has captivated the imaginations of researchers, attorneys, historians and the general public

for 160 years, is wrong.

The bones of deceit first were promulgated by a quick-witted swamp Yankee—the medical school's maintenance man. The meat to pad out that skeleton was laid down by a politicized judiciary, the airy fairy perceptions of Romanticist America, and an antislavery and pro-suffragette citizenry overwhelmed by an Irish immigrant population.

Although change was imminent in antebellum America, the story of the George Parkman carnage became frozen in time. The question of John Webster's involvement never underwent the serious second look it deserved, void of pressures and prejudice. Those timeworn and ill-considered perceptions survive to this day in pieces like the Autumn 2009 Harvard Medical Alumni Bulletin:

"George Parkman's prominent chin had always given him an air of determination. But as the gaunt, nearly skeletal physician climbed the steps of Harvard's medical college on the morning of November 23, 1849, the thrust of his jaw was more pronounced than usual: He was hellbent on collecting a long-standing debt from Professor John White Webster. Sadly, Parkman failed in his mission. He also failed to leave the building alive.... For weeks Boston's citizens scoured the neighborhood for signs of the missing doctor. Finally, at the prompting of a suspicious janitor, authorities recovered Parkman's remains from Webster's chemistry laboratory. Upon his arrest, Webster, a member of the Class of 1815, swallowed a strychnine pill. He went on to survive his suicide attempt only to endure, in March 1850, one of the more sensational murder trials of the nineteenth century. His fellow professors provided the forensic evidence needed to convict him.... In the weeks before his death by hanging, Webster confessed, at the urging of a local minister, to having fatally struck Parkman during a heated quarrel over the debt...."

Except for Parkman's mandible, these accepted facts and conclusions of this retelling are incorrect. We're going to show you what really did happen. And why. Watch for a soon to be published book "The Fiend in the Cellar."

Gaslight says:

March 15, 2010 at 12:19 PM

Looking forward to the book!

Contemporary references treat Webster's guilt as given, but in 1850 there was considerable doubt. The janitor, Ephraim Littlefield, was an early suspect. It was one reason he hurried to find Parkman's remains. But if Littlefield killed Parkman, what was his motive?

Webster's confession to killing Parkman in self-defense seemed to settle the matter. But in the 19th century, criminals sentenced to death were pressured to confess before execution. Even advocates of capital punishment were uneasy about executing a man on circumstantial evidence. And Webster might have confessed as a last ditch attempt

for clemency.

If "The Fiend in the Cellar" has an alternative theory, we will certainly add it to our post.

Anonymous says:

March 15, 2010 at 12:40 PM

Littlefield didn't murder Parkman. The custodian had a brisk illegal custom in cadavers in a town where the favorite hobby seemed to be homicide. Everyone knew Parkman's pockets were stuffed with cash; he must have been mugged and killed in the rough West End. The body then would have been picked up by law enforcement who did what they were known to do with unidentified bodies—transport in a canvas bag to Littlefield at the medical college for cash.

The panicked janitor with the closest person Boston had to royalty at his feet tried to dispose of a body that was Boston's closest thing to royalty. His efforts didn't work so he hung the crime on Webster.

The professor's brief lays out the bones of such a scenario. Newly-uncovered witness depositions support it. Webster owed Parkman no money, was in fact paying off a loan in advance to avoid the following year's interest payment. Why would HE kill him?

(We need to get back to our writing!)

Gaslight says:

March 15, 2010 at 5:03 PM

Sounds plausible. Sounds like the book is going to shake things up. Please let us know when it is available.

Daniel M. Parkman, Sr. says:

March 24, 2012 at 2:57 PM

Dr. George Parkman was Boston kinfolk:

<http://parkmangenealogy.wordpress.com/2009/11/13/murder-of-dr-george-parkman-harvard-alumnae/>

www.ParkmanGenealogy.wordpress.com
DMParkman@gmail.com

Anonymous says:

July 7, 2012 at 11:52 AM

Why am I reading about Dr. Webster which then changes to Dr. Wagner??? Is this a typo? AND if so why has it not been corrected? The final paragraphs indicate that the name is WAGNER. Please correct me if I am wrong. Who was the murderer—Webster

or Wagner?

Robert Wilhelm says:

July 9, 2012 at 12:11 PM

Typos have been corrected. I guess no one noticed until now.

Anonymous says:

October 7, 2012 at 9:21 AM

The main article is well written, but in serious need of competent proofreading prior to publication. There are several typos and punctuation errors! You can't count on "spell check," you know.

Robert Wilhelm says:

October 7, 2012 at 11:17 AM

You are right of course, one should always strive for perfection. However, since I am giving it away free, I do not consider blogging to be "publication." When I do write for publication my work is always thoroughly edited by someone more attuned to spelling and punctuation than I am.

To me, blogging, even history blogging, is a more personal form of expression than writing for print. It's more along the lines of a personal letter. If you send someone a letter, they may be perfectly correct to point out its errors but you would probably not send them another.

Anonymous says:

October 29, 2012 at 3:59 AM

More information is needed about the privy. For instance, it seems as if it were similar to an indoor toilet, but the smell created by decomposing flesh is vastly different from that of fecal matter and would have been unbearable. I know first-hand the odor of a modern day refrigerated morgue can be quite overpowering, so I could only imagine how much worse it would have been without such efforts. Also, were the contents of the privy ever removed, and if so, how was the task accomplished? According to the article, it would seem burning of the contents would not have been possible, possibly causing disastrous results from the built up gases.

Then there is the question as to why one would suddenly become suspicious of a repository that was specifically designed for the disposal of cadaver parts. And if Webster had use of such a disposal system, why would he burn certain parts of Parkman's body? Given the fact that Littlefield had informed him that one could not see into the privy to identify its contents, it seems pointless to exert the effort of dismemberment.

Further expansion on this topic would be greatly appreciated.

Robert Wilhelm says:
October 29, 2012 at 1:06 PM

I suggest that you read Dead Certainties: Unwarranted Speculations by Simon Schama. It includes much more detail on this case.

Post a Comment

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/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*



Drowned Churches and Ghostly Peals: Britain's Lost Bells

blogspot.co.uk

Thursday, 17 September 2015

Tales of bells that have been lost to the sea are a familiar occurrence in many legends, especially those that take place around Britain's coastline. Whether lost by bad weather, bad luck, or punishment for a rash word spoken in anger, here are a selection of Britain's drowned bells.



The Legend of Kilgrimol:

This tale is located at Lytham St Anne's near Blackpool in Lancashire. Not far from the shore it is said that a church and its churchyard lie submerged beneath the waves. Known as Kilgrimol, there have been several explanations for what happened to the ill-fated church. Walter Thornber in his *History of Blackpool and its Neighbourhood* states that an earthquake caused the disaster, whereas other sources report a violent storm as the cause of the disappearance.

This story is founded on a degree of fact, and according to a 17th century source there was indeed a church at Kilgrimol since the 7th or 8th centuries:

"In the days before the missionaries came there were evil spirits in the water marshes around Marton Mere, who were propitiated by the Britons. When Grim, the priest from Kilgrimol, came teaching the people, he cast the chief spirits into the mere and it took the form of a great worm or conga eel."

There are several places that contend for the location of Kilgrimol, some of which are out to sea, but one of which is at Cross Slack, now part of the St Anne's Old Links Golf Course. Interestingly, it seems that in the mid-1500s an event occurred that hit the West Coast and destroyed twelve villages in total; in some sources, the destruction of Kilgrimol is dated to this time.

Kilgrimol is remembered in many local place names today, and it is said that during a storm or on New Year's Eve the bells of the ill-fated church can be heard tolling.

Cross Slack

The Bells of Boscastle:

As legend goes, the people of Boscastle, Cornwall, had long been unhappy with the fact that their church was lacking in bells. This fact was made all the more sore by the delightful peal



from nearby Tintagel that could regularly be heard, and over time, funds were raised so that they could purchase their own. It took a while, but there was much satisfaction when the total needed was reached and the bells duly purchased.

The new acquisitions were being delivered by sea and the man navigating the ship happened to be from Tintagel. At the sound of the bells from his own church the man, deeply religious, crossed himself and thanked God – at that an argument broke out with the captain who was of the opinion that the ship and the sea she sailed on should be thanked instead for the safe voyage. Many heated words were uttered by the captain along with much blaspheming; as if in answer a fierce storm rose up that sent the ship onto the rocks, killing all on board apart from the man who had demanded God be given his due.

The bells were ringing as the ship went down, and it is said that they can still be heard before a storm even today.

The church featured in the story is St. Symphorian's Church at Forrabury, positioned high on a hill overlooking the sea. A version of the story of the missing bells is told in the poem *The Silent Tower of Bottreaux*.

*The pilot heard his native bells
hang on the breeze in fitful swells.
'Thank God' with reverent brow he cried,
'We make the shore on evening's tide.'
'Come to thy God in time.'
It was his marriage chime.
Youth, manhood, old age past,
his bells must ring at last.*

*'Thank God, thou whining knave, on land
but thank at sea the steersman's hand',
the captain's voice above the gale,
'Thank the good ship and ready sail.'
'Come to thy God in time.'
Sad grew the boding chime.
'Come to thy God at last.'
Boomed on the heavy blast.*

*Up rose the sea as if it heard
the Mighty Master's signal word.
What thrills the captain's whitening lip?
The death groans of his sinking ship.
'Come to thy God in time.'
Swung deep the funeral chime.
Grace, mercy, kindness past,
'Come to thy God at last.'*

*Long did the rescued pilot tell,
when greying hairs o'er his forehead fell,
while those around would hear and weep,
that fearful judgement of the deep.
'Come to thy God in time.'
Swung the deep funeral chime,
he read his native chime,
youth, manhood, old age past,
his bell rung out at last.*

*Still when the storm of Bottreau's waves
is wakening in his weedy caves,
those bells that sudden surges hide
peal their deep notes beneath the tide.
'Come to thy God in time.'
Thus saith the ocean's chime.
'Storm, billow, whirlwind past,
come to thy God at last.*



"Forrabury church Bocastle by
Herbythyme
Licensed under GFDL via
Commons

Bells for Sale:

There is a legend that speaks of how all the church bells in Jersey were once sold to the French. The dreadful act was punished when the

ship sank in St. Ouen's Bay, taking all the bells with it. At least into the 19th Century the sound of those bells were said to be heard, a bad omen that told fishermen to stay ashore as a storm was coming and lives would be lost.

There are suggestions that there is some grounding in fact for the story. Sir Henry Spelman, in his 1632 *The History and Fate of Sacrilege* devotes a section to the fate of the many church bells that were deemed surplus to requirements as Mary Tudor's reign gave way to that of the Protestant Elizabeth. There were many tales regarding the pulling down and sale of these bells, and it is from this time that the legend of the Jersey bells seems to stem.

"At the end of Queen Mary's days (Calais being taken) Sir Hugh Paulet pulled down the bells of the churches of Jersey; and sending them to St Malo's, in Bretagne, fourteen of them were drowned at the entrance of that harbour. Whereupon it is a by word at this day in these parts, when any strong east wind bloweth there, to say "The bells of Jersey now ring."

The tale of the bells was in fact used to explain a booming noise made by a combination of the wind and the sea, and it was said that drowned sailors knew of their approaching death as they heard the bells ringing beforehand.



St Ouen's Bay, Jersey

A Viking Raid:

A tale from the south coast relates how the monastery at Bosham, West Sussex, was attacked by

Vikings. The much-prized tenor bell was carried off but the monks did not give chase; as soon as the invaders were gone they rang the remaining bells, the sound carrying out to sea. The stolen bell added its own note to the peal, the sound so strong and true that it caused the planks of the ship to break and both the ship and the bell were lost to the sea.

There are two variations of the story, one where all aboard were lost, the other more positive outcome being the conversion of the raiders to Christianity.

Incidentally, this isn't Bosham's only claim to fame; it is also one place of several believed to have been the place where King Canute held back the tide.

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'Drunk and disorderly' duck swears off booze after pub fight with dog. The 'bill' was too much

November 21st 2015

cheddarvalleygazette.co.uk

By IanMat | Posted: October 14, 2015

'Drunk and disorderly' duck swears off booze after pub fight with dog. The 'bill'...



• 'Just enough to wet the beak'.
Star with pal Barrie Heyman



BRITAIN'S favourite bow-tie, pint-guzzling, fight-starting duck is off the booze after his legendary brawl against a dog in a pub.

The story of how Star split his beak after drinking in one of his favourite South West pubs has spread far and wide across the internet. But there's been a development.

The duck's spokesman said via his Facebook page Star was back in circulation - but was secretly a teetotaler.

Hearing of Star's uncommon passion for real ale, one fan/critic asked: "You do realize alcoholic beverages are toxic to avians, correct? You do realize that you're cutting the years away from the life he would naturally live, yes? Ducks can live 20+ years when well cared for ... but a duck that frequently ingests toxic substances? Not nearly as long."

But Star's Facebook person had the perfect response: "Obviously you realise that the press do sensationalise the story. Star might have a small slurp of ale once in a while, but he doesn't drink alcohol regularly or in huge quantity. I understand your concern but the press love to make a story out of nothing. Please do not worry, he much prefers water than anything else." Guess that means no hair of the dog that bit him for Star.

Star also goes to events and children's parties where he raises money for charity

Local, national and international messages of get well soon have been sent to Star, who had

a walk in Barnstaple yesterday with his life companion Barrie Heyman. But then he was approached by a woman, who was relieved to see the duck back on his feet, but "she had heard on the grapevine that Star had been arrested for being drunk and disorderly! Poor Star, reputation is in tatters for being a drunkard duck!!"



So let the record be set straight: Star the duck is not a real ale-quaffing Nigel Farage figure and more of a Al Murray character (the comedian looks like he's sloshing booze but it is actually watered down). But drunk or sober, Star rocks a bow tie and can be seen in this video facing down a Dalek like the other bow tie hero, Doctor Who (though he seems to be channelling David Tennant more than Matt Smith).

Star vs the Dalek
Posted by Star Hayman on Sunday, 13 September 2015

The enmity between Star and his sparring partner Meggie the dog is also exaggerated, like in any professional world class boxing match. Within hours of getting awakening from anaesthetic at the vets after having his beak patched up, Star returned home, gave the muzzled Meggie a stare "then promptly stood on her back. then proceeded to stand on her tail and go to sleep." So they have kissed and made up.

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September 10, 2013 by lordsoftthedrinks



The wild hog that drunk 18 cans of beer, before getting into a fight with a cow.

Anyone ever told you that you behaved like a pig when you got drunk some time? Well imagine what happens when a pig actually gets drunk. Some campers near the DeGrey river in Australia watched this phenomenon when a wild hog (see picture) drunk 18 cans of beer. Apparently it wasn't a happy drunk, cause they witnessed the pig start a fight with a (much bigger) cow.

"It was in the middle of the night and it was these people camping opposite us and they heard this crunching of the can and they got their torch out and shone it on the pig and there he was scrunching away their cans", says eye witness Merida who was present when the incident occurred. "The he went and raided their rubbish that they

had sort of covered over with a bin as well. And then there was some other people camped right on the river and they saw him running around their vehicle being chased by a cow. It was going around and around and then it went into the river and swam across to the middle of the river. The people that were camped on the river went across and crept up on it and it was hiding and sleeping under a big log right on the edge of the water."

Classic. Apparently the pig drunk 18 cans, then feasted on some rubbish, got into a fight with the biggest guy around, then had a bath and went to bed. Sounds familiar right? Drink like hell, eat unhealthy fast food, take on a guy twice your size, take a shower and sleep off your drunkenness. Seems like we're not that different.

This entry was posted in Animals and Alcohol, News and tagged animal, australia, beers, campers, cow, DeGrey river, drunk, pig, pig fights cow. Bookmark the permalink.

11 thoughts on "Drunk pig gets into a fight with a cow"



1. Stuart McIntosh says:
September 12, 2013 at 4:02 am

Only in Australia! :)



• lordsoftthedrinks says:
September 12, 2013 at 5:34 pm

Hahahaha you have a certain reputation indeed! :D



2. foxress says:

September 15, 2013 at 3:34 am

What a pig!



3. Barbara Carrino says:

November 29, 2013 at 3:05 am

How dry I am.....know buddy knows ...how dry I am...how dry I am.....

4. Pingback: 11 funny pictures of drunk animals | Lords of the Drinks

5. Pingback: Drunk Australian wins fight with a crocodile | Lords of the Drinks

6. Pingback: Canada welcomes the first drunken birds in special drunk tanks | Lords of the Drinks

7. Pingback: Fire brigade rescues German drunks from 35 meter high factory tower | Lords of the Drinks

8. Pingback: Drunken silverback gorilla attacks French photographer in Rwanda | Lords of the Drinks

9. Pingback: Drunk guy picks fight with a killer elephant in Sri Lanka | Lords of the Drinks

10. Pingback: Beer stealing pig gets cut off at own bar after head-butting customers | Lords of the Drinks

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A 'drunk' squirrel ransacked a club when it became locked in

July 16, 2015 7:48pm
Ian Horswill

At first sight it looked like the club had been broken into and ransacked.

Beer was overflowing from the trays and onto the floor, which was also strewn with money and straws and glasses and bottles were knocked off their shelves of Honeybourne Railway Club in the market town of Evesham in Worcestershire, England.

"At first I thought we'd been burgled but I realised it was all still locked up and that's when we saw the squirrel," club branch secretary Sam Boulter told Worcester News.

"I'd never seen anything like it before — he had ran around the shelves and across the bar.

"There were bottles scattered around, money scattered around and he had obviously run across the bar's pumps and managed to turn on the Caffrey's and also managed to ruin some barrels too.

"He must have flung himself on the handle.

"I think we lost about £300 (\$632) worth of stock but it is just one of those once in a lifetime things — I hope!"

The squirrel came out from behind a pack of chips, 62-year-old Sam said.

"He must have flung himself on the handle and drank some as he was staggering around all over the place and moving a bit slowly," BBC reported.

"I've never seen a drunk squirrel before. He was sozzled and looked a bit worse for wear, shall we say."

It took Sam and two customers an hour to capture the 'drunk' squirrel in a waste paper bin and it was released into the field outside the club from a window.

It took Sam another hour to clean up the mess.

- Copyright Herald and Weekly Times. All times AEST (GMT +10:00)

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A PECULIAR INVENTION.

An invention which, in the event of the inventor's anticipations being realised, will prove of great value in seasons of drought, has been brought under the notice of the Government by Mr E S Haines, of Punt road, Richmond. From the plans which Mr Haines has prepared, it appears that his proposal is to construct a captive balloon capable of carrying 800 cubic feet of hydrogen gas, and to it will be suspended a cask containing 50lb of dynamite. When rain is much needed, the balloon will be sent on a trip to the clouds, and by means of electricity the dynamite will be exploded, with the result, as the inventor anticipates, that copious showers of rain will fall on the land beneath. The explosion will open a valve which will cause the gas to leave the balloon, and the arial visitor will then slowly return to earth. Mr Haines intends to first test the value of his scheme in New South Wales, where rain is much needed, and if the invention should prove of real value, he will have done that colony much service.—*Telegraph*.



The infant infanticide

The story of "eared Shorty" is one of the MOST chilling That can be found in modern criminology. This Argentine boy named **Cayetano Santos Godino** , criminal Began His Career With only 7 years old, choosing Their other children as victims. **Godino** , Who Was Also arsonist, HAD on tenterhooks all the people of Buenos Aires at the beginning of the twentieth century. The thrilling life of **Small-eared** , the child murderer Has Been Brought to the big screen of the hand of Madrid director Jorge Algora, Entitled "The mud boy ".

The history of **Cayetano Santos Godino** completely coincides With That of many other serial murderers in adults and, as usual, with a tortuous Begins childhood. Son of Calabrian immigrants, this boy born in 1896 in Buenos Aires, Had seven children and an alcoholic, abusive father. **Fiore Godino** , His father, HAD contracted syphilis even before I was born Cayetano, Which Brought the child serious health problems. It could even be Said That from the small "eared Shorty" met near death Because of the diseases That Affect it.



Godino raised in Rumble Fish. The rules of a city full of immigrants in the early twentieth century and was still far from what would be later. In fact Almagro and Parque Patricios today two fully integrated the industries in Argentina's capital Were adjoining areas and open space . Those Neighborhoods would be the epicenter of the whereabouts of This Child, Which many would not hesitate to qualify as real monster.

Cayetano from five years Begins to Receive Formal education in various schools. But the lack of interest in the study and Their violent and unruly behavior make Godino go from one school to another heading wandering. **Its native habitat Were the streets**

and vacant lots . I loved to kill kittens and watch dying. Also felt the fire worship. It was clear That the "eared Shorty" was not an ordinary child. At all.

PLAYING TO BE A MURDERER

I was just 7 years old When I Committed His first act of violence Against a person. The age at a child Which Should be Concerned about Their Own more games and childhood fantasies. **But Cayetano** , Attracted him more.

DESPITE His skinny appearance, His prominent ears and short, **Godino** had a great power of attraction on children. He is inviting them to Their games, Offering them candy and so Could take them to areas Where No One Could See What I Intended To Do With them.



Miguel de Paoli

The first of His victims, but That was lucky nothing serious will happen, it was **Miguel de Paoli** , a child of About two years, Which was hit by "Shorty" And then thrown over a ditch full of thorns. An agent circulating in the Realized area What Happened and Took the children to the police station, Where They Were Their mothers picked up by a few hours later. A year later, would be the turn of **Ana Neri** , a neighbor of hers WHO was barely 18 months old.

He HAD Also little fortune **Anita** , as the blows That Cayetano have violated a stone flesh to not kill her thanks to the intervention of a police officer noticed what was happening and ended the matter. Godino was released from prison That Night For His young age.

Then He Had Already Begun by petty crime in With His friend Alfredo HAD Tersi and his father found a lot of dead birds That " **Shorty** "kept under His bed. His first fatality was falling.



Ana Neri

, Although no one would know Until later. A girl of 18 months, was beaten and buried alive by Cayetano Then, WHO covered the pit With cans and other debris. This Happened in 1906

Godino When HAD Already 10 years of age. The girl died, presumably, would **Maria Rosa Face** , About Who Had made the complaint of disappearance and HAD never returned. In the vacant lot Where the " **Shorty** "Argued bury a building with two floors was built. So I Could never corroborated the confession of criminal child.

By Then, **Cayetano Santos Godino** Seemed irredeemable person. He was 10 years old, Had Become a real compulsive masturbator and irreverent. His parents did not know what to do With It, Fiore Godino was the same WHO Denounced him to the Authorities. Cayetano spent two months behind bars, to return to ordinary life: the vagrancy and morbidity. After assaulting Severino Gonzalez Calo (WHO tried to drown) and July Botte (eyelids burned with a cigarette) Their parents deliver it back to the Authorities.

Rumble Fish

It was 1908 and Cayetano That 12-year-old was sent to spend her days in Cologne under Marcos Paz. The effect Usually Causing a stay in prison for any inmate known. Far to rehabilitate and reinsert in society, but there I Learned to read and write, hard days of detention returned him to the more hardened, cold streets and, of course, eager for crimes. He spent three years there and left everything made a teenager, but a teenager Who Had lived things others do not.

Cayetano was strong on the streets. Transit stop the places I was always and goes to the darkest areas of the city.

There starts to consume alcohol and meddle in matters not at all holy. His parents get to work in a factory, but lasts only three months in office. It was clear That His career was in another place.



Severino Gonzalez Calo

His next fatality would Laurora Arturo, a 13-year-old WHO was found brutally beaten, naked and with a rope around His neck strangling him. Some days Earlier, on January 17, 1912, HAD Godino Set Fire to hold on Corrientes.

When arrested, His words Were clear and did not show any remorse ". I like to watch the firemen work It's nice to See How They fall into the fire. "

These facts would be nothing but a confirmation of what was to eat later: endless aggressions and crimes of all kinds. First I sets fire to **Queen Vainicoff** rolling a match to your calico dress. The five year old girl died Shortly afterwards. Also, showing His love for the fire, I Caused three fires As They Could be controlled, Including a train station. The animals are Also under their "jurisdiction." For This I have stabbed to death His Master's horse Paulino Gomez, When I was working in a warehouse.



July Botte

Some children had better fortune than others. That's how Roberto Russo miraculously saved, 2 years old, Carmelo Gittone, 3 and Catalina Naulener, 5. All Were Previously beaten and Seduced by the " **eared Shorty** "(that name was common to refer to Already I have circles by moving). Anyway, or any officer or by A person who coincidentally saw what was happening, Could Prevent more tragic outcome. But Cayetano Santos Godino BE HAD to end in crime. Perhaps The most ominous of all.



Arturo Laurona

A NAIL IN THE SIEN

It was the morning of December 3, 1912 and Cayetano Left His house as I always did, to wander a bit. Also Jesualdo Giordano, a child of three years, was going to play with His neighborhood friends. And I had the misfortune of His fate and That of Godino met. The "Shorty" the boys, joined WHO demurred. At the end of the day, I always got along With them. A little for His appearance and a little idiot Because I Knew seduces. Jesualdo-through candy fell On His game.



Reyna Bonilla



Roberto Russo

Walked up Fifth Jesualdo Cayetano Moreno, a remote location Where the "eared Shorty" would make theirs last. There cornered him, hit him and, taking off by rope from His belt, I have hanged himself. But the boy did not die, I bound him hand and foot and Went in search of a stronger element. In the search, I met With the father of Jesualdo and even Had the sense to tell him to go to the police station to make a complaint About His disappearance.

Godino the element used to kill the child Jesualdo was a four-inch nail That buried in the temple of the creature. Then I covered the body with a sheet and fled. He even Had the audacity to go Through the wake of the child. They Say That He Had even if I wanted to see the nail buried in the temple.

Two police officers, **Peire and Bassetti** , and HAD rightly attached the tracks of all the crimes and misdeeds. There Were it not Doubts That was Cayetano Santos Godino, That teenager full of perversion and totally unwilling to respect the laws and rules. A log house Godino throw the quick results: remains of the rope used to strangle **Jesualdo Giordano** and La Prensa newspaper clipping recounting the details of the crime led the field Suspicions certainties. Godino confessed Their crimes and, at first, was taken to a hospital for Mental Health.



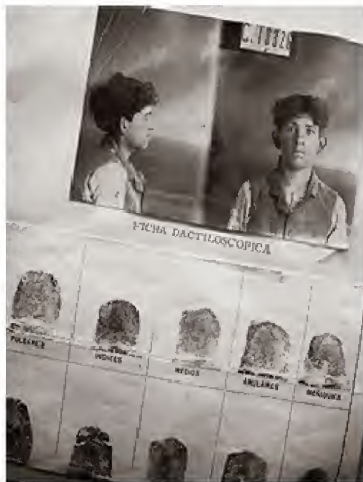
Carmen Ghittoni

It Is Believed That I was mentally disabled and HAD to no awareness of His actions. But there I tried to kill a bedridden invalid and a person walking in chairs ruedas. Los end of Cayetano Santos Godino years spent in jail in Ushuaia -the southernmost city the world, Known as "Prison end of the world". A correctional grueling, held Where Were The Most Dangerous criminals and to Establish a similarity, was equivalent to Russian prisons of Siberia or the American San Quentin.

"It is a fool or a hereditary degenerate, perverse instinct, extremely dangerous for Those around him," Said The psychiatric report sharply Godino When Asked for Their freedom Cayetano died in 1936. Finally in 1944, victim of internal bleeding. It is Assumed That was the result of continuous beatings and sexual abuse by other inmates have received. A remote end, bloody, Corresponding With what life was a strange child, looking like an idiot and I felt a great pleasure to do what Condemns society.

By Carlos Cabezas Lopez

Sources:



<http://www.casoabierto.com>

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<http://www.petisoorejudo.blogspot.com>

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East Germany's 'accidental liberator' dies

AFP/The Local · 1 Nov 2015, 14:46

Published: 01 Nov 2015 14:46
GMT+01:00

Günter Schabowski, the East German official who inadvertently announced the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989 died on Sunday aged 86, media reported.

The former spokesman of the Politburo central committee of East Germany's ruling communist party, Günter Schabowski, died in the reunified capital, his widow told news agency DPA.

His death came just days before the 26th anniversary of the joyous border opening.

After months of mass protests against regime in 1989 and amid a widening exodus of citizens to the West via Hungary, the Politburo asked the government to prepare a law loosening restrictions on travel outside East Germany.

It was nearly 7:00 pm on November 9 when Schabowski pulled a sheet of paper from his pocket and read out a decree stating that visas would be freely granted to those wanting to travel outside or leave the Stalinist state.

"As of when?" asked an Italian journalist.

Schabowski hesitated and then improvised: "As far as I know... as of now."

The press conference was carried live by television networks and within minutes news bulletins were proclaiming that "The Wall has fallen".

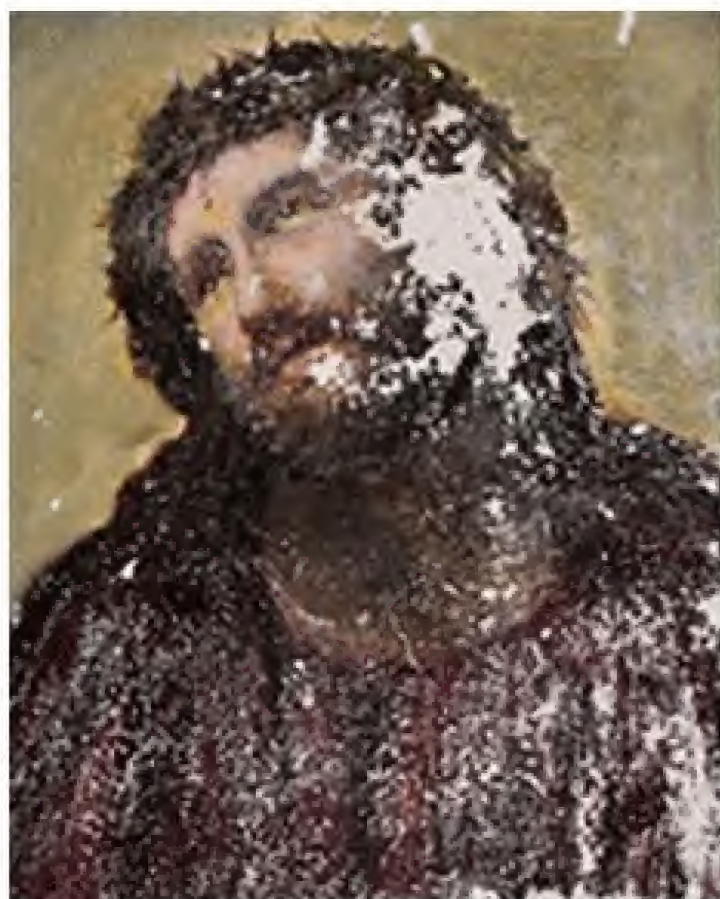
Thousands of East Berliners started streaming towards checkpoints leading to West Berlin, where baffled East German border guards, unsure what to do, kept phoning for instructions.

Eventually as the crowds grew ever larger, one barrier went up and bewildered East Berliners, who had been unable to cross freely for 28 years, staggered into the West.

Officials had intended to phase in changes the next day, but the mass of people hastened the Wall's rapid fall.

The measures were intended to stem an exodus to Hungary amid mass protests.

Less than one year later, on October 3, 1990, East and West Germany reunited as one country, ending four decades of Cold War division.



Legend has it that a farmer friendly drink and invited to dinner at his house to a group of criminals. They took advantage of their hospitality to steal and killed him by throwing down a well. Since then every night can ...

In the town of Tecate, located at the end of the Rumorosa, it is said that in times of the Mexican Revolution, around 1910, lived a couple of very peaceful and hardworking people. They were a childless couple. The Lord took care of cultivating the land and his wife took care of the housekeeping.

At that time there were not many people around and the roads were mere dry gaps marked on the arid landscape, dusty streaks why sometimes spent the horses raised clouds of dust with their walk.

One day some men carrying several hours walking in the hot sun appeared. Exhausted and thirsty from walking in the heat, saw the gentleman who worked on their crops was the only person who had close and therefore approached him.

- Good afternoon! They -saludaron.

- Good afternoon! Mr. He answered, leaving her work and being aired in the hat. How well here? Very few people come here.

-the Desire to find good fortune brings us said one of the men.

Come to Tijuana, just across the Rumorosa said the other.

Well still it has a long way Tijuana is far.

Yes, and that what we have gone and we die of thirst, would not have a bit of water that will give us? He asked one of the strangers.

- Chingallos, just took my last drink! But ándale, do not worry that my house is nearby and have a well. Unless you are in a hurry. He replied the farmer

- Prisa? . Slowly but by drinking water, compadre said one of the men and then all followed the Lord to quench your thirst

The man, who rarely saw someone passing by the place, got excited whenever visitors came and tried to take the opportunity to hear gossip and news. He was then rushed to lift their gear and then led the men to his house. There his wife met them and greeted them taking off his hat.

Once they had entered, the men drank all the water they could, ate like wrecks and talked long and pleasantly. Meanwhile, the evening was about to leave and sunset, in their advance,

the sky was on fire then give way to the howls of coyotes with reverence before the rise of the moon. However men showed no signs of leaving, actually it looked they wanted to prolong the talks with the intention of staying. Seeing that, a man and his wife made them a cot with branches of straw so they can sleep.

Past times a scream pierced the silence of the morning, a cry that reverberated far as betraying the approach of death nearby ...

Nobody ever knew what happened. It is strange however that belonged to a band of bloody criminals, of dehumanized men who enjoyed the suffering of all victims who opposed them has a minimum resistance. Because they have tried to steal and that man tried to offer resistance, perhaps more than necessary because the cruelty with which he liquidated still remembered among the locals: it tied with chains, removed his eyes, and threw him into the pit then they threw stones into the well to cover his drowned body. His wife and the attackers never heard anything.

Such is at least the version that is on his death, version no doubt that many, especially those who have nights when there near the well noise of chains, moaning cry and even chilling screams of despair are heard. They say sentences in search of his missing wife and the bloody she was killed, say that in the morning you can clearly see the traces of their feet shackled, sometimes heard as if hurled rocks into well water despite that no one is near the launch ... even some say that when passed near the well at dawn, bubbles have heard, as if someone or something inside the water was producing. The few who have dared to look include seeing a large face, a blue-white spectrum, screaming with eyes flooded with anguish; and ascending, ascending to want to contact the visitor scared ...

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Elizabeth I's love life: was she really a 'Virgin Queen'?

Tuesday 14th April 2015

historyextra.com

For a queen infamous for her alleged virginity, Elizabeth I's love life has long been the subject of great speculation. Here, Dr Anna Whitelock, a reader in early modern history at Royal Holloway, University of London, explores what really went on behind the closed doors of the so-called Virgin Queen...



Illustration c1560s showing Queen Elizabeth I and Robert Devereux, Earl of Essex. (Popperfoto/Getty Images)

Over the years, countless books, novels, plays and films have depicted Elizabeth I's relationships with figures such as Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester; Robert Devereux, Earl of Essex, and the Duke of Anjou. In the absence of conclusive proof one way or another, the question 'did they or didn't they?' will always linger. Yet what is clear is that, both at home and abroad, rumours about Elizabeth's love life – real or imagined – circulated throughout her reign. Far from being the Virgin Queen, for some hostile observers Elizabeth was the 'whore' of

Europe.

Contemporary beliefs about the 'insatiable' sexual appetites of women, together with Elizabeth's failure to marry, fuelled suspicions that the queen was engaged in secret sexual liaisons. Her Catholic opponents challenged her virtue, and accused her of a "filthy lust" that had "defiled her body and the country". The king of France joked that one of the great questions of the day was "whether Queen Elizabeth was a maid or no". The courts of Europe were abuzz with gossip as to the queen of England's behaviour.

From the very earliest months of her reign, rumours spread of Elizabeth's relationship with Robert Dudley, her "sweet Robin" whom she had known since childhood. Within days of her accession, Elizabeth had appointed Dudley as master of the horse – a position that guaranteed almost daily contact. The Spanish ambassador reported to the king of Spain that "Lord Robert has come so much into favour that he does whatever he likes and it is even said that Her Majesty visits him in his chamber day and night".

The pair's attraction to one another was widely commented upon, and their flirtatious behaviour shocked observers. When in 1560 Robert Dudley's wife, Amy Robsart, was found with her neck broken at the bottom of a staircase, speculation was rife as to the involvement of the queen and her favourite. In the years that followed, their close relationship continued, but any lingering possibility of a future marriage was cast aside.

Elizabeth's councillors were determined to secure a favourable marriage for her, both as a

means of consolidating England's position in Europe and to provide an heir to succeed her. While there was no lack of suitors, including Philip II of Spain; Erik XIV of Sweden and the Archdukes Ferdinand and Charles of Austria, no one managed to win the queen's favour or the unanimous support of her council. While foreign negotiations continued, Elizabeth enjoyed the attention of young male courtiers like Thomas Heneage, Christopher Hatton and Walter Raleigh, and later Robert Devereux, earl of Essex, all of whom flirted their way into the queen's favour.

But Robert Dudley remained the queen's first, and probably only love. Perhaps as a reaction to Dudley's marriage to Lettice Devereux, dowager countess of Essex in the autumn of 1578, the following year Elizabeth welcomed Francois, the duke of Anjou, brother of the king of France, to the English court to present his suit for marriage.



Robert Dudley, who Elizabeth called her "sweet Robin". © Heritage Image Partnership Ltd / Alamy

It was not an ideal match. Anjou was a 20-something tiny and pockmarked Catholic who was widely rumoured to be a transvestite. Nonetheless, Elizabeth had always longed to be wooed in person by one of her illustrious suitors, and for a time she seemed to be genuine in her affections and interest in Anjou, whom she affectionately named her 'frog'.

After a few weeks Anjou returned to France and negotiations appeared to falter in the face of public opposition to the match, but in October 1581 Anjou returned to England. Since his previous visit, he had continued to write love letters to the queen in which he expressed his desire to be "kissing and re-kissing all that Your beautiful Majesty can think of", as well as to be "in bed between the sheets in your beautiful arms".

Upon his arrival in London Elizabeth once again seemed enthralled and enraptured by Anjou's presence, and on 22 November, when the court was assembled at Whitehall to celebrate the Accession Day festivities, Elizabeth declared in public that she intended to marry him. She proceeded to kiss him on the mouth and give him her ring. Yet overnight, Elizabeth apparently had second thoughts and announced the next day she would not marry Anjou.

It is doubtful whether Elizabeth had really intended to go ahead with the marriage given the popular hostility to it, but when Anjou finally departed she made much of being grief-stricken at the loss of her lover "with whom she so unwillingly parted".

With the failure of the French match, hopes that Elizabeth would marry came to an end, but as she grew old and increasingly isolated she continued to seek the attention of her male courtiers. Robert Devereux, the young earl of Essex and stepson of Robert Dudley, was Elizabeth's last great flirtation. Despite the age gap between them, the nature of the relationship was again speculated upon. He soon became master of the horse and moved into his stepfather's apartments at court. One of Essex's servants boasted that "even at night

my lord is at cards or one game or another with her, that he cometh not to his own lodging till the birds sing in the morning.”

But this was a different kind of relationship than the one Elizabeth had had with Dudley, and was more about the desire of an aging woman to be made to feel young and attractive by a handsome young courtier. Yet Elizabeth was never so swept away by her emotions that she lost a keen sense of political realities. In 1601, after what was seen to be an attempted coup against her, she ordered Essex’s execution.

In 1603 Elizabeth, then almost 70, died unmarried and celebrated as England’s great ‘Virgin Queen’. Yet her death served only to continue speculation about her private life. In the years that followed, the questioning of Elizabeth’s virginity was no longer confined to hostile Catholic discourse, and there was a growing sense that Elizabeth’s private feelings had compromised the integrity of her rule.

In life, Elizabeth and the ladies of the bedchamber had tenaciously defended the chastity of her body to protect her reputation and defend her crown. In death, it is surely the possibility that she was not chaste that continues to fascinate, and ensure Elizabeth’s enduring popularity and appeal.

Dr Anna Whitelock is a reader in early modern history at Royal Holloway, University of London, and the author of *Elizabeth’s Bedfellows: An Intimate History of the Queen’s Court* (Bloomsbury, 2013).

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Emu safely captured near Odessa

Molly Murray, The News Journal

delawareonline.com



Emu captured

Odessa's runaway emu was safely captured Thursday, and will be sent to a veterinarian for care. (Photo: Photo courtesy of Kelly Wythe Pederson)

Delaware's wayward emu was safely captured Thursday afternoon, said Dan Stonebraker, an owner of 3 Palms Petting Zoo in Clayton.

The 6-foot male bird, which weighs 90 to 95 pounds, was captured about 2:30 p.m. in a backyard at the Stonefield housing development near Odessa.

Stonebraker and his business partner Matt Shaffner worked with animal-control officials and Delaware State Police to corner and net the bird.

"We got it. Locked and loaded" in the trailer, Stonebraker said, shortly after the bird was captured and secured. "It's safe. It's happy. He's real content."

Stonebraker said Delaware State Police kept onlookers and the media away from the rural, farm and wood lands where the animal had been staying during its more than two months on the lam so the capture team could get the job done.

"We're pleased that this was resolved," said Dan Shortridge, a spokesman for the state Department of Agriculture.

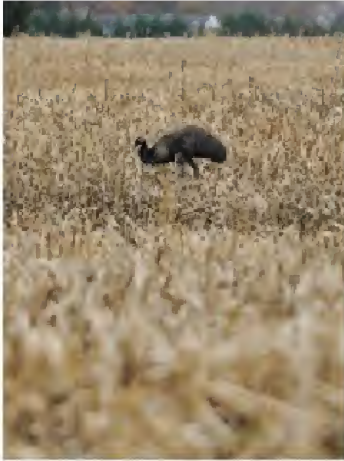
It took three tries on Thursday to capture the bird and dozens more in the days leading up to the successful recovery. Stonebraker said he felt it was especially important to capture the bird Thursday because there were growing concerns about public safety. In addition, Friday marks the start of shotgun season for white-tail deer in Delaware – and the risk the bird might shot by accident.

Stonebraker said the team set up nets to corral the bird, but it twice escaped them.

"Third time's a charm," he said.

After the emu's second escape, it ran into the woods and ended up in the backyard of a home in Stonefield. There, the team was able to guide it down a backyard fence line and corner it, and then Shaffner dropped a net over it. Once the bird was captured, they secured its legs and carried it to the trailer, Stonebraker said.

Emu in a farm field in Odessa.



(Photo: JASON MINTO/THE NEWS JOURNAL)

The next step, to move the bird to a safe and secure facility in Townsend, he said. There, it will receive veterinary care and be allowed to readjust to life in captivity.

In the meantime, Stonebraker will be looking for a new home for the bird because no one has claimed it.

"It's a male. It's very docile," he said. "It was definitely a pet because it's very comfortable around people."

The future bird owners will go through careful screening.

"I'm not letting this bird go to just anyone," he said. The reason: He said he doesn't want to see it escape again.

Newark emu farmer Carolyn Palo, who besides running Pine Hill Farms, where she raises emus, is also president of the Maryland Emu Association, said that typically, 6-foot-high fencing is recommended because the big birds can easily climb lower ones.

Emu escapes do happen from time to time.

Matt Chapman of Oxford, Pennsylvania, has cared for nine rescued emus over the years. He's now down to a flock of three, and when one of his escaped, he found the best solution was to dart it with a tranquilizer.

"It went right down," he said.

Then, he was able to easily take it back home, he said. In that case, the emu was running around in Oxford, and police were planning to shoot it because of the threat to public safety, he said. It became such a celebrity, thanks to media exposure, that officials contacted a vet who helped calculate the tranquilizer dosage.

Chapman was the one who fired the dart gun that lead to the recovery of his bird.

And on an earlier occasion, he said, he used one of his three-wheeler vehicles, ran up alongside another wayward emu, jumped off and tackled it.

He doesn't recommend that strategy. "That hurt a little bit," he said.

Since Delaware's emu has been on the run, Palo, the Delaware emu farmer, said she has received dozens of phone calls.

Mostly, people want to know if the emu belongs to her.

It doesn't.

"Mine are all accounted for," she said.

In fact, state agriculture officials, who oversee agricultural animals like emu in the state, have

reached out to Delaware's known emu farmers. No one reported a missing bird, and so far, the owner hasn't come forward.

In 2007, the latest year data is available for Delaware, there were three emu farmers in the state, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service.

The birds, while a nonnative species, are not regulated as exotic animals. Instead, they are considered an agricultural animal.

Leading up to Thursday's capture, the bird caused quite a stir in normally quiet Odessa. It prompted a "soft" lockdown at two area elementary schools Monday, and there were reports of it wandering into roadways.

"It's a sight to behold," Stonebraker said of the dark-feathered bird.

Reach Molly Murray at (302) 463-3334 or mmurray@delawareonline.com. Follow her on Twitter @MollyMurraytnj.

EMU FACTS

Native range: Australia, New Guinea, Indonesia, Philippines

Habitat: Grassy plains, open forests, scrub land

Fun facts: Emus are flightless, though they do have two, small wings on either side of their body. They are the second largest living bird. The ostrich is the largest. They are considered docile. Some owners describe the birds as friendly.

Lifespan: 10 to 20 years in the wild

Weight: 66 to 121 pounds

Height: 4.9 to 6.2 feet tall

Products produced from emu: Meat, feathers, fat and oil. The oil is used as an anti-inflammatory.

Source: San Diego Zoo; Carolyn Palo

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God is seen having a nap under some rocks on Mars

Rob Waugh for Metro.co.uk

metro.co.uk



God is seen having a nap under some rocks on Mars

What the Hell? (Picture UFO Sightings Daily)

We all know that God sneaked off for a rest on the seventh day – but he seems to STILL be having a nap, under a pile of rubble on Mars.

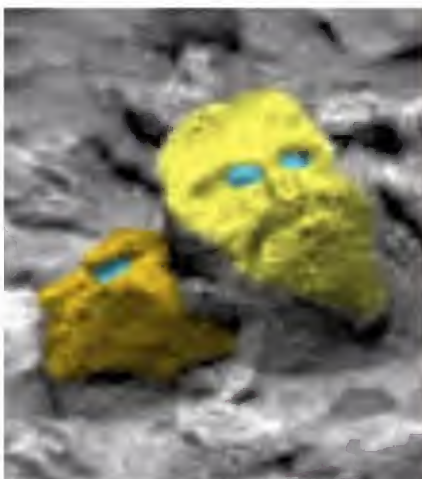
At least, that's one interpretation of a new picture from the Mars Curiosity Rover.

The tireless alien-watchers at UFO Sightings Daily note that the figure has a resemblance to ancient Babylonian carvings – such as the luxuriant beard of Nebuchadnezzar.

Previously, UFO Sightings Daily have spotted a crab monster, a sinister woman, a polar bear and a crashed drone on Mars.

If they're right, it's a bustling place up there.

MORE: Incredibly ugly 'alien' is found in California – just after UFO sighting



Bearded Babylonian statue is pictured on Mars comp.JPG



Picture UFO Sightings Daily

Scott C Waring of UFO Sightings Daily said, 'Found these faces on Mars side by side. One is looking towards us and the other is looking to the left. The face looking at us has a lot of similarities to the ancient Mesopotamia faces.'

'They were made. They existed once long ago in our solar system. Right next to our planet. They were born, they lived and they died. They don't need you to

believe or not. They are gone.

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REMARKABLE DISCOVERY.

A short time ago, two lizards, one five and a quarter inches long and the other three and a quarter inches, were discovered in an iron mine at Brixham, Devon. They were found in a fragile earthy substance, close to limestone, at depths of 80 feet and 60 feet from the surface. The mine is about 800 yards from the sea. For several days the lizards were preserved in a small box, partly filled with soft mine *débris*, and afterwards placed in a globe of water. Both now appear to be well. The colour on the back is black with small white spots; the belly is of rich gold colour with black stripes.—*Times*, Oct. 15, 1868.

TOAD IN A QUARRY IN GERMANY.

The discovery of a large toad in a solid stone found in a quarry at Pedarburg, in the district of Manseldt, has lately attracted the attention of the Royal Academy of Berlin. Discoveries of the like kind are frequent in Great Britain.—*Gentleman's Magazine*, vol. lv., p. 640, A.D. 1785.

'Finding Bigfoot' Team Still Can't Find Bigfoot

Lee Spiegel Become a fan

huffingtonpost.com

Posted: 07/13/2015 8:29 am EDT Updated: 07/13/2015 2:59 pm EDT



National Geographic / YouTube

Maybe they should just admit that Bigfoot doesn't exist.

After decades of debate, speculation, anecdotes, eyewitness testimony, photographs, films and videos, the hunt

continues and true believers haven't given up hope.

The above image is one frame from what is known as the Patterson-Gimlin film, considered the most controversial and debated footage that purports to show a creature walking through woods near Bluff Creek, California, in 1967.

After six seasons investigating Bigfoot/Sasquatch reports in 40 states and six countries on Animal Planet's "Finding Bigfoot," a team of four hunters -- believers and skeptic -- is still looking for the hairy legend.

Bigfoot Field Researchers Organization founder Matt Moneymaker, researchers Cliff Barackman and James "Bobo" Fay, and skeptical field biologist Ranae Holland have travelled through deep forests, jungles, mountains, rivers and swamps, following leads and trails of their elusive objective.

"One thing I've always felt was a problem with the show is that we set up this false expectation that somehow we were going to meet up with the Bigfoot and end up holding hands with him and pow-wowing or handcuffing one and putting him in our trunk," Moneymaker told The Huffington Post.

Moneymaker believes the team has had some close calls with Bigfoot. Of course, others would say that he is a victim of wishful thinking,

"We've gotten close enough to them to hear them on many occasions and to get sound recordings. And we've shown video tapes that other people have gotten of them. Some of those pieces of video footage we didn't know if they were legit until we actually went to the location. But we haven't gotten video footage of them ourselves during the course of the show."

The Bigfoot hunters talk with executive producer Keith Hoffman about their ups and downs after six seasons of looking for their quarry:

Moneymaker and his team use military-type night vision and thermal imaging technology to help them look for tall, hairy, human-like animals in the wilderness. And through it all, he's never really liked the name of their show.

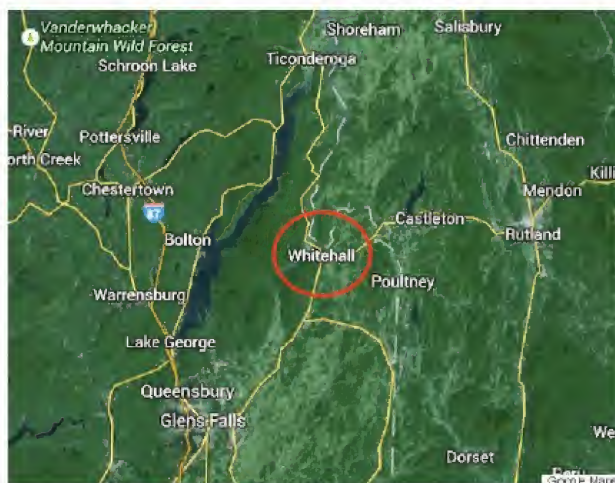
"The idea of *finding* them -- what exactly do you mean by finding? I never wanted to use that word. I

didn't like the whole title of the show because it implies that you find it like finding a penny on the sidewalk. That's not the way it is with these things.

"If you're close enough to hear them, or sometimes you get close enough to see them, you're certainly not going to capture one. And even if we were going around with guns to try and shoot one, you wouldn't have much opportunity to do that because they'd be gone before you could raise the gun."

While detailed maps have been created showing the saturation of Bigfoot reports in the United States, Sunday's sixth season finale of "Finding Bigfoot" concentrated on what Moneymaker says is a consistent hot spot.

"The finale [took] us to a place that's basically the mecca of Bigfoot sightings in the Northeast. It's right on the New York and Vermont border at the bottom end of Lake Champlain. Whitehall, New York (see map below), is a place where even the local city government and police departments are not shy about saying there have been Bigfoots sighted around there."



In 2004, following several Bigfoot sightings near Whitehall, the town created an ordinance, prohibiting the hunting of the alleged creature within the town limits.

"The resolution is formally titled the Dr. Warren L. Cook Sasquatch Protective Ordinance. If you were planning a Bigfoot hunting expedition in the village anytime soon, you're out of luck," according to the Post-Star.

Here's the actual 2004 Whitehall, New York, Bigfoot ordinance. Keep in mind, all of this was done about a creature or animal that hasn't even been acknowledged by the international scientific community:

The Dr. Warren L. Cook Sasquatch/Bigfoot Protective Resolution

WHEREAS, there is an historic, traditional history of accumulating reports of a bi-pedal, ape-like creature walking like a human in the Whitehall, New York area often referred to as "Bigfoot" or "Sasquatch"; and

WHEREAS, reports of these creatures can be traced back to the Iroquois and Algonquians and are referenced clearly in the works of Samuel de Champlain and represent a consistent pattern of sightings; and

WHEREAS, the possibility of an endangered species, proven and pending scientific recognition, should be entitled to protection under both Federal and New York State laws; and

WHEREAS, the publicity of these creatures could draw not only scientific scrutiny, but unwarned hunting parties with weapons that could pose a lethal threat to both creatures and area residents as well; and

WHEREAS, legislation to protect other cryptozoological creatures has been successfully passed in both Pennsylvania for The Lake Champlain Monster popularly referred to as "Champ" and in Sullivan County, Washington for "Bigfoot" or "Sasquatch";

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF WHITEHALL, NEW YORK, that the Village of Whitehall adopt the following measure to ensure the safety of those creatures known as "Bigfoot" or "Sasquatch" in the following two sections:

SECTION ONE: Sasquatch Safety Preserve - the creatures known as "Sasquatch" or "Bigfoot" are declared an endangered species in the Village of Whitehall, New York and are hereby protected from potentially lethal abuse or annihilation by humans or hunting parties; and

SECTION TWO: The willful, premeditated act of killing or fatally injuring a "Sasquatch" or "Bigfoot" within the borders of the Village of Whitehall, New York is hereby prohibited.

Adopted this 5th day of February, 2004.

bigfootordinance

Watch this trailer for the 'Finding Bigfoot' season finale

If you didn't catch our recent Bigfoot HuffPost Weird News Podcast featuring anthropologist Natalia Reagan, check it out here:

LISTEN: BIGFOOT'S BIG PROBLEM

[f](#) [t](#) [e](#) Also on HuffPost:

- You just can't keep a good, hairy beast down -- that is, unless it's allegedly real, and it's supposedly dead. 2014 got off to a big, Bigfoot start, with promoter Rick Dyer claiming to have killed one of the beasts and was taking the body on tour for the public to pay and see (including its less than stellar manhood). Problem was, when push came to shove, Dyer apparently couldn't get many venues interested enough in his Bigfoot traveling show, and it ended up being a no-show. Dyer eventually admitted to the hoax.

- 2015 kicked off with a story from Tampa, Florida, fisherman John Rodriguez, who claimed that, on Dec. 26, 2014, he snapped this picture of Florida's version of Bigfoot: the elusive and alleged Skunk Ape. Naturally, this picture and Rodriguez's story generated huge controversy, with most folks declaring it a hoax.



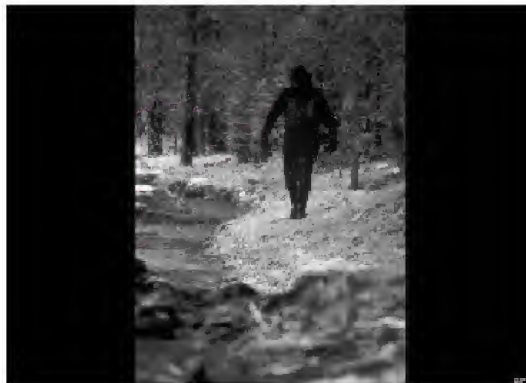
bigfoottoday.com

- This still image taken from a 1977 film purports to show Bigfoot in California.

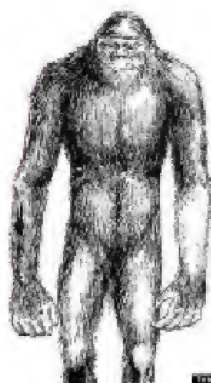
- A film still shows what former rodeo rider Roger Patterson said is the American version of the Abominable Snowman of Nepal and Tibet. The film of the tall creature was shot by Patterson and Robert Gimlin northeast of Eureka, Calif., in October 1967.

- As a motor biker was driving through the Grand River area of Ohio in April 2012, an alleged Bigfoot ran across

the road and was caught on



videotape.



© 2000 by the University of California Press

- Depicted is an illustration of a creature reported to inhabit the Kemerovo region of Siberia. Scientists from the U.S., Russia and other countries have yet to find one of these creatures known as the Russian Snowman. In early October, researchers claimed to be 95 percent certain that the animal exists.



- An alleged footprint of a Yeti, or

Abominable Snowman, appears in snow near Mount Everest in 1951. Now, scientists are setting out to find evidence of a reported unknown, hairy, bipedal creature known as the Siberian Snowman.

- Bigfoot or bear? Impression left on the driver's side window of a pickup truck owned by Jeffrey Gonzalez. The bizarre image was left by an alleged Bigfoot in California's Sierra National Forest



over Memorial Day 2011. DNA samples of the impressions will eventually determine the identity of the animal responsible for them. (See next slide for a close-up of the paw-like impression.)

- Close-up of the "paw" print image. The impression was reportedly left by Bigfoot on the window of a pickup truck in the California Sierra National Forest over Memorial Day weekend 2011.
- Bigfoot or bear? Pictured is a second impression left on the rear side window of the same truck from the previous slides. According to forensic/law

enforcement photographer Mickey Burrow, "What you're seeing is a swipe mark. It looks like a small hand, swiping to the left, leaving another impression, and there's hair within those areas -- you can see where the hair would be."

- This footprint was found over Memorial Day weekend, 2011, near Fresno, Calif. by a group of campers who were on a Bigfoot-hunting expedition. The print, measuring approximately 12 inches, was found near a truck where possible DNA evidence was left behind by more than one Bigfoot creature.
- This footprint was found in 2008 in the Sierra National Forest near Fresno, Calif.
- Thomas Byers snapped this photo of "Bigfoot" along Golden Valley Church Road in Rutherford County on March 22, 2011.
- Bill Willard is the leader of a group searching for evidence of a Sasquatch or Bigfoot creature, spotted by, among others, his two sons in Spotsylvania County. He is shown on May 19 in Thornburg, Va., with a plaster cast he made from a suspicious footprint several years ago.
- This still frame image from video provided by Bigfoot Global LLC shows what Whitton and Dyer claimed was a Bigfoot or Sasquatch creature in an undisclosed area of a northern Georgia forest in June 2008.
- This October 2007 image was taken by an automated camera set up by a hunter in a Pennsylvania forest the previous month. Some said it was a Bigfoot creature; others believed it was just a sick bear.
- A preserved skull and hand said to be that of a Yeti or Abominable Snowman is on display at Pangboche monastery, near Mount Everest.
- Idaho State University professor Jeffrey Meldrum displays what he said is a cast of a Bigfoot footprint from eastern Washington in September 2006. Some scientists said the school should revoke Meldrum's tenure.
- Joedy Cook, director of the Ohio Center for Bigfoot Studies, talks to a visitor to his booth on Oct. 15, 2005, at the Texas Bigfoot Conference in Jefferson, Texas. The event, hosted by the Texas Bigfoot Research Center, drew enthusiasts and researchers of the legendary creature.
- Ken Gerhard of Houston, Texas, holds a duplicate plaster cast footprint Oct. 15, 2005, at the Texas Bigfoot Conference. The event, hosted by the Texas Bigfoot Research Center, drew enthusiasts and researchers of the legendary creature.
- Josh Gates, host of Syfy TV's "Destination: Truth," holds a plaster cast of what Malaysian ghost hunters said was a Bigfoot footprint in 2006.

- Al Hodgson, a volunteer guide at the Willow Creek-China Flat Musuem in California, holds up a plaster cast of an alleged Bigfoot imprint in 2000. The museum houses a collection of research material donated by the estate of Bob Titmus, who spent his life trying to track the creature.
- Costume maker Philip Morris, who does not believe the Bigfoot legend, claimed the Patterson-Gimlin film showed a person wearing a gorilla suit that he made.

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Chemical weapons, according to the studies that have been conducted over twenty Roman soldiers found in Dura-Europos (Syria), are not inherent in the twentieth century. The remains of these soldiers belong to the third century AD. Apparently, the Persians, in their siege of the city, dug a tunnel under its walls to get into it. But the Romans, imagining the strategy of the Persians, meanwhile dug a tunnel to surprise the Persians when they try to enter that place.

But the Persians were not exactly fools, and when the Roman soldiers entered the tunnel, set fire to a mass composed of bitumen and sulfur crystals, creating a toxic cloud in the tunnel that took the lives of the soldiers in question minutes. Simon James,

American archaeologist who directed the excavation, said that for a group of Roman soldiers died together in a space of these characteristics was necessary that either the Persians were about supermen or actually used a deadly weapon.

Following these events, the city was conquered by the Persians, and most of its population killed or taken to Persia as slaves.

Dura-Europos, located on the banks of the Euphrates River, was conquered by the Romans, who built a fortress. Towards the 256, the city was besieged by the troops of the Persian Empire under the Sassanian dynasty (226-651). No ancient text relates the confrontation, which today has certainty thanks to the archaeological excavations, which began in the 20s.

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Five Italian places you'll be too scared to visit

The Local · 29 Oct 2015,
13:27

Published: 29 Oct 2015
13:27 GMT+01:00

As the days grow darker and the weather chillier, The Local lists some of the most haunted places in Italy to help you get into the Halloween spirit.

Poveglia island, Venice



Photo: Jean-Pierre Dalbéra/Flickr

Located between Venice and Lido in the Venetian Lagoon sits Poveglia, considered the most haunted place in Italy.

In the 18th century the island was used as a quarantine station for people with infectious diseases. According to local legend, half of the island's soil is now made up of the remains of plague victims who died there.

Between 1922 and 1968 the island was also home to a hospital for the elderly and mentally ill. The hospital director was notoriously cruel and was rumoured to have performed horrific experiments on the patients, including crude lobotomies. He is said to have performed them with tools such as hand drills, chisels and hammers, killing patients in the process.

The locals believe the island to be cursed by the tortured souls who once lived there, while the hospital director is said to have killed himself after being driven mad by the ghosts of his victims. Zak Bagans, an American TV presenter who visited the island for the series 'Ghost Adventures' in 2010, claimed to have been briefly possessed by a ghost there.

Last year a brave Italian businessman, Luigi Brugnaro, purchased the island with plans to redevelop it.

Villa Magnoni, Cona

Situated in a beautiful park in the Veneto town of Cona, Villa Magnoni is a mysterious derelict house, nearly entirely boarded up.

A group of friends reportedly visited the house in the 1980s and heard children singing in the garden. Upon exploration, they found nothing. But they are said to have seen a woman in the

top window of the house, shouting at them to leave. The friends ran in fear and sped away in their car, which was then involved in a tragic accident in which three of them were killed.

The one survivor reportedly went back to the house to investigate the woman they had seen, and upon searching the house discovered that the window from which she appeared was in a room which had no floor. There have been several reports of a female voice coming from the house, which remains uninhabited today.

Castello di Montebello, Torriana



Photo: Kate Dreyer/Flickr

The so-called 'legend of Azzurina' is perhaps one of Italy's most famous.

Castello di Montebello, a 14th century hilltop fortress near Rimini, was home to a little girl called Guendolina. She was albino, which in those days was thought to have been a curse sent by the devil, and anyone with albinism was burned at the stake.

To avoid this fate, her mother would use natural herbs to dye her hair. However, the dye would fade and leave an eerie blueish hue, thus the girl was nicknamed 'Azzurrina'.

To protect their daughter even further, her father would not allow her to leave the house, and hired two guards to watch over her. But legend has it that on 21st June 1375, the day of the summer solstice, the little girl was playing with a ball when it fell down the basement stairs. She ran after it and disappeared. Some suspected that her father killed her, but a body was never found.

Her ghost is said to inhabit the castle, and every summer solstice people report hearing the cries of a little girl.

Casa delle Anime, Voltri, Genoa

Located 17km from Genoa's city centre is Voltri, a small hamlet containing one of the country's most haunted houses.

A family, all of whom suffered from mental disorders, are said to have once owned the house and ran an inn from it.

Legend has it that they would invite passing guests to stay and then during the night, murder them and steal whatever money they had before throw the corpses into a mass grave. The souls of the victims are said to have been bound to the house and roam around it during the night, making strange noises.

The house was empty for many years before a family moved in after the Second World War. They are said to have witnessed more than one strange event.

According to locals, several people have also witnessed a young girl dressed in white, asking if anyone has seen her lover. The girl is believed to have been betrothed to one of the family's victims and after he never returned to her, she went to look for him. Now she wanders around the house, looking for her lost love.

Botanical Gardens, Lucca



Photo: PapaPiper/Flickr

Situated within a corner of Lucca's city wall, the botanical gardens are home to an old legend.

A noblewoman named Lucida Mansi lived in Lucca in the 17th century. She is said to have been extremely vain, so much so that sold her soul to the devil in exchange for retaining her beauty.

The pond in the centre of the gardens encircles the so-called "plant of death" as it lies on the burial site of plague victims, non-believers and executed prisoners. In its dark waters, you can apparently see the face of Lucida. She is said to have had many lovers, but wishing to keep her reputation intact, she murdered them to avoid scandal and did so by throwing them into a ditch covered in sharp blades.

She died of the plague but, still unhappy in death and having sold her soul, legend says that on dark stormy nights a fiery coach with Lucida inside can be seen racing around the pond, haunting the gardens.

By Ellie Bennett

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The fly-tipping capital of England has been revealed

19:58, 14 Nov 2015 Updated 20:02, 14 Nov 2015 By Dominic Herbert

mirror.co.uk



Getty

Issue: Fly tipping has become a national problem

A former cotton mill town in Lancashire has been branded the 'fly-tipping capital of England'.

Figures show the borough of Hyndburn - which covers Accrington and surrounding towns and villages - reported over 20,000 cases of tipping last year.

Figures from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs show the local council dealt with more cases than the nearby major cities of Manchester and Liverpool combined.

The borough council also sent out 8,117 warning letters about fly-tipping, more than double that of the next authority, Newham, which sent 4,000 letters.



Mirrorpix

Commitment: Cllr. Miles Parkinson

Angry locals have accused a small minority of treating the district "like a dustbin" while the council says it is committed to keeping the borough clean.

Business owner Joanne Cross, 42, said she had experienced problems with fly-tipping in Oswaldtwistle: "There is a story every week about fly-tipping, it is like the fly-tipping capital of the country.

"I do agree that people need to take responsibility themselves for rubbish and I think they do, but a minority treat the place like a dustbin."

Station: Accrington train station in Eagle Street

Councillor Miles Parkinson, leader of the council, said: "The council has made a commitment to maintaining the cleanliness of the Borough which was recognised when we received a 5 star grading and also best small local authority in the country from the Clean Britain Awards.

"Fly tipping is a national problem, mainly carried out under the cover of darkness and I would appeal to members of the public to help us by reporting any suspicious activity, and where applicable the vehicle registration number."



Mirrorpix

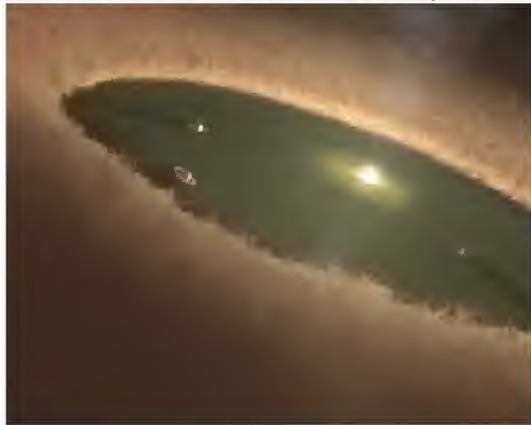
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Birth of Planets! Formation of Alien Worlds Photographed for First Time

scientificamerican.com

Scientists photograph a gas-giant exoplanet forming around a young star that lies about 450 light-years from Earth

By Mike Wall and SPACE.com | November 19, 2015



Artist's illustration of planets forming in a circumstellar disk like the one surrounding the star LkCa 15. The planets within the disk's gap sweep up material that would have otherwise fallen onto the star.

Credit: NASA/JPL-Caltech

For the first time ever, astronomers have directly observed planets in the process of being born.

Scientists have photographed a gas-giant exoplanet forming around a young star called LkCa 15, which lies about 450 light-years from Earth.

"It's exciting, because it's the first time that we've been able to image forming planets directly," study lead author Stephanie Sallum, a graduate student at the University of Arizona, told Space.com. "It gives us a system to follow up in the future, in depth, to really understand the details of how planets form." [Gallery: The Strangest Alien Planets]

The LkCa 15 system features a large disk of dust and gas surrounding a sunlike star that's just 2 million years old. Such circumstellar disks commonly surround newborn stars, providing the raw materials from which planets form.

Indeed, previous studies have spotted large gaps in some disks that newly accreting alien worlds likely cleared out. Scientists have even detected disk asymmetries and heat signatures that have been interpreted as evidence of planets inside these gaps.

Such a gap exists in LkCa 15's disk, and one giant protoplanet candidate, known as LkCa 15b, was detected in the system in 2012, at a distance of about 16 astronomical units (AU) from the star. (One AU is the distance from Earth to the sun, about 93 million miles or 150 million kilometers.)

To learn more, Sallum and her colleagues zeroed in on the LkCa 15 system using the Large Binocular Telescope (LBT), an observatory in southeastern Arizona that boasts two 27-foot-wide (8.4 meters) primary mirrors.

The team confirmed the existence of LkCa 15b, imaging it directly in hydrogen-alpha photons, a type of light that's emitted when superheated material accretes onto a newly forming world. (Like newborn stars, newborn planets are surrounded by disks of feeder

material.)

Other LBT observations revealed the presence of another newborn planet, LkCA 15c, inside the gap and suggested that a third (LkCA 15d) exists there as well, study team members report online today (Nov. 18) in the journal *Nature*.

"We're seeing sources in the clearing," Sallum said. "This is the first time that we've been able to connect a forming planet to a gap in a protoplanetary disk."

"The researchers' discovery provides stringent constraints on planet-formation theories," Zhaohuan Zhu of Princeton University, who was not affiliated with the new study, wrote in an accompanying "News & Views" piece in the same issue of *Nature*. "For example, such theories now have to explain how a giant planet can form 15-16 AU from its star within 2 million years, and still be growing after this time."

The new technique demonstrated by Sallum and her team could lead to the discovery of many other newly forming exoplanets, allowing astronomers to learn much more about the distribution of young worlds, Zhu added.

"Such an understanding of the young planet population will shed light on the decades-old problem of planet formation, and reveal how young planetary systems can evolve into older ones such as our solar system, billions of years after they were born," Zhu wrote.

- [Star's Protoplanetary Disc Visualized By Artists | Video](#)
- [Alien Planet Quiz: Are You an Exoplanet Expert?](#)
- [10 Exoplanets That Could Host Alien Life](#)

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Comments

Ronald79 November 19, 2015, 5:23 PM

I hate to be a complainer but the article mentions an actual photograph but instead you show us an artist illustration where is the photo?

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Jessica Jones · 2 Nov 2015, 18:53

Published: 02 Nov 2015 12:23 GMT+01:00 Updated: 02 Nov 2015 18:53 GMT+01:00

The clitoris: a gastronomic delight typical of Galician cuisine, according to a town that promoted its local festival after using Google Translate.

A town hall in northwestern Spain was left red-faced after a Google Translate error led to it advertising its local leaf vegetable celebration as a much more X-rated affair.

One of the highlights of the year in the town of As Pontes in Galicia, northwestern Spain, is its annual rapini festival, when townsfolk celebrate the town's speciality, the leafy green vegetable similar to spinach.

Galicia town to take action against Google Translate over 'clitoris' gaffe

But when residents clicked onto the Castilian Spanish version of the town's website - provided by Google Translate - to check the dates for next year's fest they were shocked at the new turn the festival had apparently taken.

"The clitoris is one of the typical products of Galician cuisine," read the description of the festival on the Castilian Spanish version of the town hall's website, whose original version is written in Galician.

"Google translate recognized our Galician word *grelo* as Portuguese and translated into the Spanish *clitoris*," town hall spokeswoman Monserrat Garcia, explained to The Local.

Google Translate changed *Feira do grelo* (Rapini Festival) into *Feria Clitoris* (Clitoris Festival) leading to some embarrassment when staff at the town hall discovered their error on Thursday.

"Since 1981, the festival has made the clitoris one of the star products of the local gastronomy," read the blurb on the town's official website, extolling the region's gastronomic goods.

And it is not only the town hall's website that has received an X-rated makeover thanks to Google.

"We discovered that Google translates any mention of grelos, on any website, to clitoris," Garcia said.

"It's a very serious error on the part of Google and we are thinking about making an official complaint for Google to properly recognize the Galician language so this kind of thing doesn't

happen again," she added.

It seems that Google Translate mistakes the Galician *grelo* for the Portuguese word *grelo* - which is also the word for the vegetable as well archaic slang for clitoris.



Rapini, the speciality of the Galician town of As Pontes. Photo: Laurel F/Flickr

The festival, which promotes the regional product and includes 'a best in show' competition, is scheduled to take place on February 15th 2016.

Rapini is a staple of Galician cuisine and is also a common

ingredient in Italian and Portuguese dishes. It is a subspecies of turnip and is the southern European equivalent of 'turnip tops' or 'turnip greens' and in the US is known as broccoli raab or broccoli rabe.

The vegetable is most commonly eaten with cured pork and potatoes.

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We were a group of seven girls we met on weekends, some evenings during the week and spent summers together. One of us worked in a brewery so that was where we met. This girl had many problems at home, an alcoholic father, a mother who did not fucking care you We leave it alone and I place a couple of times and one of those times when I left at seven o'clock in the door of his home, his father also came with a slice like a piano.

She told me: If I miss the would die (she was the only family who cared to pick you up from the bars when he could no more and was lying). The case is not the saw in a few days one summer afternoon did everything asked me not to see her and was told that he had an accident. I -ingenua Me 'I went home thinking of a pine motorcycle and go see her at the hospital when I found that he had suffered a drop in blood pressure and drowned in a pool because nobody had noticed in time I do not know what happened to me that while the rest of the people sank around me, I took forces do not know where, and first recognized the cadaver (not scared or impressed me the least, when I had always thought that would otherwise if I had to see me in these circumstances) and also forces had yet to fix all the paperwork and arrange burial "social" part of the macabre act that is burying people you want. Everything that happened crowds, the pain worsened as they calmed the atmosphere and the days passed and I I felt suddenly fatal (a delayed reaction but no less traumatic).

The following months passed me more than once going in my car I felt a chill recorrem body and felt a presence in the backseat that made me look in the rearview mirror to make sure she was not there ... always match the feeling of fear and cold with a song that we liked a lot and I still put regularly. Once was both fear and the feeling that this "presence" I had to park on the roadside and look back scared shitless to convince me that no one

Over the months I had to sell the car because I was panicked having an accident to go look in the back when he noticed his presence there, (if you have not felt will not understand and believe that the subconscious betrayed me) but the feeling was so strong and real than a thousand lives I swear she was living there. I changed my car as I say and that fear stopped suddenly and chills too. Oh I forgot! Just a year after his father died as she predicted. Recently watching "The Sixth Sense" I cried, anger, pain, and again in fear, because I thought that the worst thing my friend did not know he was dead and was being mounted in my car to carry it running

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Ghost of the Paris Art Museum: Spirit of Artist George Grosz Captured in Musée National d'Art Moderne



the-ghost-of-george-grosz

The Musée National d'Art Moderne in Paris is known for housing some of the finest works of art in existence, but if an eerie new photo is to be believed, it might just house the ghosts of long dead artists too.

One of the most prevalent theories in the world of paranormal investigation is the idea that a spirit, human or otherwise, can attach itself

to an object. Sometimes that object was used to draw the attention of the spirit (think the ever-so-controversial Ouija board), or one that's attached to a strange location (like, say, a **plank from the infamous Amityville Horror house**), and sometimes it's an object that was once held near and dear by the spirit before death.

If the dearly departed were an artist, it might be reasonable to think they'd stick around their favorite work – and it looks like one ghost may have been caught doing just that.



paris-museum

During a recent trip to Paris, Reddit user KiddCudder and girlfriend made a point to visit the Centre Pompidou, home to the Musée National d'Art Moderne, the largest museum for modern art in Europe. While strolling through the modern art exhibits, they came to a piece by **George Grosz**, a German artist known for his bizarre caricatures. They snapped a picture of the painting, titled "A Victim of Society", and were stunned to see the hazy reflection of a man's face staring back at them. But it wasn't just any man... it

was Grosz himself.

"We were the only ones in the room at the time and the painting appeared to have a normal black background," KiddCudder wrote. "After she took the photo, she looked into her viewfinder and saw something quite bizarre. I'm not one to believe in ghosts, but I have no



george grosz

idea how this occurred. Long story short, I ran out of the room pretty quickly, haha.”



haunted-george-grosz-painting-paris-museum

A quick glance at a few images of George Grosz shows an uncanny similarity to the man

appearing in the “haunted” painting, but could it have simply been another museum visitor trying to get a peek at the painting? Not so, says Kidd.



a-victim-of-society-grosz

“We surveyed the whole room before and after taking the photo. The thing was, we saw this painting before and walked away. But my girlfriend had a weird feeling that she just “had to take the photo” when we walked back into the room, it was empty. I wasn’t looking at the painting as she took the photo, I was turned around. The room was empty. When she looked in the viewfinder this man’s face was there.”



george-grosz-haunted-painting

Proposed non-paranormal solutions to the mystery included everything from a large-scale projector in the background, a malfunctioning camera, and even a photographic trick intended

by Grosz, who died in 1959, but if your mind is ready to stretch that far, you’re only a stepping stone from a belief in ghosts anyway. Might as well go for the gold, if you ask me.



George-Grosz-headstone

As for KiddCudder? He isn't so skeptical anymore.

"I honestly wish I was messing with you guys," he wrote. "I've never believed in ghosts or spirits until this day."

What do you think? Is the spirit of George Grosz still lingering near his favorite works? Did KiddCudder and his girlfriend happen to capture Grosz image from beyond the grave? Or were they simply the first to discover a hidden trick painted into the canvas? ,

8 Comments

1. John P. Twigg

08/21/2015 at 2:50 PM

Photoshop

- Week In Weird

08/21/2015 at 3:01 PM

Doubtful.

- Mariya

08/28/2015 at 8:38 PM

I'm the girlfriend in this article! I can assure you it isn't photoshopped. I would have been skeptical too if I wasn't the one who took the photo

2. Leah King

08/21/2015 at 3:18 PM

How did Dan Akroid get in that picture.

3. Greg Newkirk

08/21/2015 at 3:58 PM

I gotta say, this really is one of the most interesting "ghost photos" I've seen, even if it does turn out to have a good explanation. It's crisp and clear, and there's no denying that's a face.

4. Matt

08/24/2015 at 1:15 PM

Here's an enhanced image next to a portrait of George Grosz. I have to say that the facial features are eerily similar and I can almost make out a white collar shirt.

<https://slimgur.com/images/2015/08/24/8451e83263e9033e2592e02a777072f4.jpg>

(hopefully outside image links are allowed)

5. Cheltenham painters

10/04/2015 at 7:20 AM

the art and the life hidden in this picture is indeed it self a ghost, and if they call it the ghost photo. i think it's true, because the charm & the beauty of this picture only be felt by a true artist & they can get caught by the ghost in the picture.

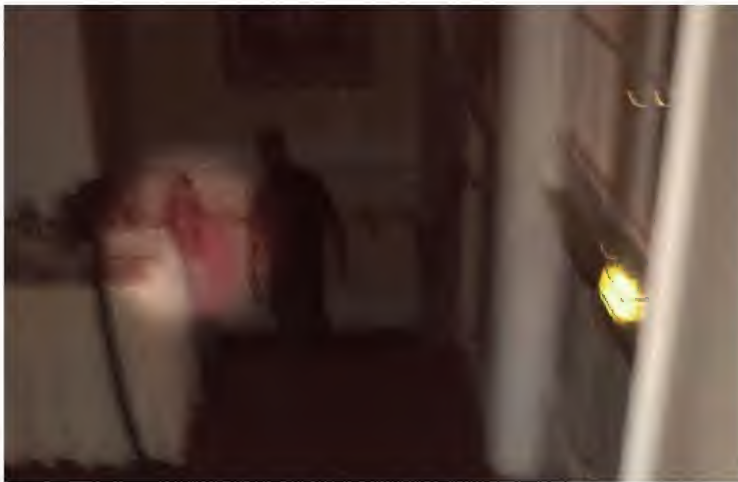
6. Ed

10/06/2015 at 10:44 AM

What about the man-shaped silhouette on the right? Is that the boyfriend?

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Spirits of the Stanley Hotel: Ghost of “Lucy” Photographed at Haunted Hotel That Inspired “The Shining”



ghost-of-a-girl-in-pink-dress-stanley-hotel

The ghostly tales from **Colorado's Stanley Hotel** are well-known and well-repeated, thanks in part to the fact that it inspired Stephen King to write *The Shining*. Now a ghost tour visitor believes that they've captured a photograph that lends credence to one of the hotel's creepier legends.

Ohio native Stephanie Reidl was recently visiting the famously haunted hotel and decided to embark on one of the Stanley's nightly ghost tours. After listening to their guide

recount tales of the building's numerous ghosts, Reidl and her coworker began to snap photos on their way to the concert hall basement. Upon reviewing the photographs, they captured the usual scattering of “orbs” – which we won't get started on – but one particular image caught their attention.



New-Stanley-Header

The snap shows their tour guide descending the stairs, but to his left, hiding behind a table, appears to be the ghostly image of a young, dark-haired girl in a pink dress, her eyes reflecting in the camera flash. It's an undeniably spooky image that they believe shows Lucy, one of the Stanley Hotel's most famous phantoms.

“We were told to take lots of pictures, I'm sure to try and capture orbs or ghosts,” Reidl wrote. “Many green orbs were caught in pictures, but I don't think anything is as creepy as this photo taken by my coworker- a little girl in a hot pink dress, who was definitely not on our tour... I

am convinced this is the ghost of Lucy."



The ghost of The Stanley Hotel's "Lucy"

According to the hotel, Lucy was a young girl about 13 years of age, believed to be a runaway, who had been squatting in the Stanley's basement for some time many years ago. When maintenance men came to survey the basement before some major construction below the concert hall, the stumbled onto Lucy and she was forced to leave. That very night, temperatures dropped below zero, and she was later found dead, frozen by the elements. Today, many of the hotel workers and guests have claimed to have seen her.

Reidl says that she understands the skepticism that she might face by posting the image online, but swears that the photo is genuine.

"Though I doubt if anyone would believe me, but there was only ONE time throughout the tour where I felt any strange energy or feeling, and it was right here, heading down to the basement of the concert hall."



stanley-hotel-ghost-lucy

Could Reidl be the first to finally capture an image of Lucy making her presence known from beyond the grave? Or was someone's currently-living child wandering the halls of The Stanley Hotel at nine o'clock, hoping to scare guests on a spooky ghost tour? We want to know what you think!

Greg Newkirk

28 Comments

1. Mighty Kites

08/19/2015 at 1:01 PM

Seems more like a case of pareidolia to me. It seems more just a combination of an out of focus camera and dark lighting

2. Rick Broadhurst

08/19/2015 at 8:10 PM

Ehhh!

3. Michael L Moore

08/20/2015 at 1:34 AM

Here is my wife at the Stanley next to a little girl!!

Same stairwell opposite view!



• Week In Weird

08/20/2015 at 1:38 AM

Holy shit, look at that!

• Michael L Moore

08/20/2015 at 1:45 AM

Here is a Ghost Dog caught on the third floor Greg Newkirk



■ Jann j

10/09/2015 at 12:51 AM

Cool!

• Michael L Moore

08/20/2015 at 1:46 AM

One of the little boys that roam the landings at each end

Greg Newkirk



• Maylyn Brianne

08/20/2015 at 2:37 AM

Woah seems scary I want to go and see if I could see anything

• Michael L Moore

08/20/2015 at 11:19 AM

Maylyn Brianne – the cloudy area is what we “perceive” as an entity there are about 8 pics that show this

“whatever it is”, probably a mist moving across a hall

It was there, then was it? It’s the oddity we claim as “not normal” hence;



paranormal

Thanks for the input!

• Sarah

08/21/2015 at 1:33 PM

Great picture!,you can see the wife's shadow that is as tall as she is.Then the shadow next to here that's the height of child AND there's that orb where the child's body would be!. This and the picture of possible Lucy but def a ghost are the best I'VE seen yet!. Keep up the great picture taking.

• aRcaNum

09/10/2015 at 7:08 PM

It's just a double shadow, happens all the time. One light source level with the woman casting a llife size shadow behind her and one light source higher to the right casting a short shadow to the left. Nothing unusual or paranormal

here.

• Jack

09/10/2015 at 7:45 PM

That is one big girl!

• Ashley

10/08/2015 at 10:40 AM

Where is the little girl? Are you referring to the shadow on the wall to the left? That looks like it would be your wife's shadow. Hmmm.

4. Chris Blackburn

08/20/2015 at 1:57 AM

Where is the little girl?

5. Sandra Mason

08/20/2015 at 2:39 AM

It's her shadow to the left...

- Michael L Moore

08/20/2015 at 11:20 AM

Sandra Mason , it's easy to think that until you know the area was dark, no light, and the photo clip was taken fully in the UV range with no illumination except IR

It's that "oddity" that's not normal

- Sandra Mason

08/20/2015 at 11:43 AM

No I meant it's the little girls shadow....where the orb is. I've seen some of your other stuff !

- Jann j

10/09/2015 at 12:53 AM

I saw the orb, then reread, and looked for the shadow. Proof enough for me!

- Michael L Moore

08/20/2015 at 11:45 AM

10-4, I was hoping you could solve the whole "do ghosts exist" and be an expert

- VALENTINA

08/21/2015 at 1:43 PM

Send me pics to look at. I've captured several ghosts on film

6. Tim Berry

08/20/2015 at 2:39 AM

Is this's the hotel in Durango or pagosa springs?

- Wendy

08/29/2015 at 11:14 PM

No, it's in Estes Park near Rocky Mountain National Park.

7. Tim Berry

08/20/2015 at 2:40 AM

There is an orb lower left in the corner!

8. Coppertop

08/19/2015 at 8:13 PM

Man, that's ... pretty convincing. And creepy as hell.

9. Alana

08/20/2015 at 7:19 AM

There is a group photo on the second floor of a family around a camp in the woods. There is a little boy sitting on his dad's shoulders, if you look at it, his face is blurry. But if you take a pic of it, you can actually see his facial features. I would love to do a ghost tour of the Stanley! My husband on the other hand says he will stay home.

10. Ryan summers

08/20/2015 at 6:22 PM

The picture Stephanie took is kinda hard to believe. I love learning all about ghost and orbs but her picture is way too blurry. Even the guide is blurry. If you take pictures you know 99% don't come out as blurry as hers. Show better pics like the ones with your wife in it and the orb and shadow to the left. Little more believable than Stephanie's. Plan on doing some ghost hunt in San Francisco Bay Area. Good places out here. Thanks for your time

11. Denise Martinez

08/20/2015 at 8:28 PM

Great photo... I'm into Paranormal as well

12. Ems Jaye

08/20/2015 at 10:48 PM

I see the orbs but i don't believe the shadow on the stairs to be that of the little girl .

Phantom of the Flame: North Carolina Woman Captures Ghostly Civil War Apparition in Campfire



ashville-campfire-ghost

We feature a lot of spooky ghost photos here at *Week in Weird*, and when you've seen enough of them, it starts to take a lot to elicit a response other than "feature it" or "throw it into a roundup with others". That's why when a spooky new photo came across the news desk at Weird HQ, it was a big deal when the image evoked audible gasps.

The ghostly image was submitted by a reader who glanced it in his Facebook feed, sending along a link

with the following text via one Miranda S. of Asheville, North Carolina:

I took this picture one night with my mom's blackberry at the Asheville fireman's camp on the river near bent creek. We didn't think nothing of it since I had just took random pictures that night to kill time. We went home without my mom even looking at her phone and went to sleep. At about 3 that morning she woke up screaming about a dream she had that a man told her to look at the fire, she got her phone and we started looking at every picture I had took that night about 130 of them. We got to this picture and we both just looked at each other and started trying to do research about pictures like it and finding information about the area.

The photo appears to show a man's moaning face emanating from the fire, with some commenters claiming they can see a beard, arms, and hands. I took the liberty of altering the image a bit, and the result is most definitely creepy, and even more compelling.

A little fiddling with the contrast, and few things really begin to pop. Most obvious is the ghoulish looking phantom skull on the left hand side of the flame, but what I'm more interested in is the man who looks a hell lot like a Civil War soldier on the right hand side. See him? He's got a beard and everything.

A little closer, just to be safe:

Spooky, huh? Has the same kind of vibe as the ghost photos of old. The city of Asheville is dotted with Civil War history, so it wouldn't be much of a surprise if the soldiers made a ghostly appearance once in awhile, even if it is on a Blackberry.

So what do you think? Was a Civil War soldier making his presence known from the other



original-photo

side? Have you captured a creepy ghost photo of your own? We want to hear from you!

Greg Newkirk

4 Comments

1. Ruth

06/05/2015 at 2:48 AM

Actually looks like two faces to me, don't see the skull. A bearded face behind a face with hair that is short cropped or shaved off.

2. Jim

06/06/2015 at 6:15 PM

I see three people sharing a bag of Doritos

3. Liz Knudsen

06/07/2015 at 9:05 AM

To the left of the flames: Jesus Christ
And to Jesus' right: Groucho Marx smoking a cigar with Bozo the Clown hair

4. Liz Knudsen

06/07/2015 at 9:12 AM

Whoops—I meant Larry Fine hair. And no disrespect to Jesus.



enhanced-image



civilwarsoldierenhanced

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Giant Darth Vader head falls victim to dark forces on streets of Madrid

Emma Anderson · 16 Nov 2015, 17:22

Published: 16 Nov 2015 17:22
GMT+01:00 Updated: 16 Nov 2015 17:22 GMT+01:00

The Dark Lord is apparently not so powerful in Spain - a larger-than-life replica of his head in Madrid has been the target of vandalism.

The official Star Wars Community of Spain posted quite a sad Facebook message on Sunday, lamenting that they had to dismantle part of a giant

Darth Vader helmet on display in Madrid due to vandalism.

Por si la expo de Face the Force no habia tenido suficiente con las pintadas del casco de Stormtrooper, hoy nos despertá...

Posted by Comunidad Star Wars. on Sunday, November 15, 2015

"In case the Face the Force expo had not had enough with the paintings on the Stormtrooper helmet, we woke up today to see damage to the helmet of Darth Vader on the Bilbao roundabout."

The Face the Force exhibit in Madrid features various, towering helmets from the movie on display around the city. They have been a popular destination for thousands of people, taking selfies to post online, according to Spanish daily 20minutos.

But they have also been the targets of repeated vandalism, first a Stormtrooper's helmet and now the Darth Vader mask being damaged, according to the Star Wars group. The group said it had to remove the upper part of the Dark Lord's helmet until it can be repaired.

Still, the incomplete headpiece hasn't seemed to have made the sculpture less popular with social media photographers, though some seemed to think it had been stolen.

"They stole the helmet of Darth Vader at the Bilbao roundabout belonging to the Face the Force Expo."

"They left Darth Vader bald at the Bilbao roundabout."

Some did seem a quite upset over Darth Vader's new look, blaming the "scum" who defiled him.

"Damaging this is the work of one or more imbeciles, scum who don't understand dreams, work or respect."

"Bastards - that is what the people are who did this."

Girvan sea monster. 1953.

Posted by *metan* on March 8, 2012

Posted in: Fortean, old newspapers, photo, sea monsters. Tagged: 1953, Girvan, history, news, Sawney Bean, Scotland, sea monster, Sea Monsters. 2 Comments

I haven't done a post about a sea monster for a while and a quick check revealed to me that I hadn't yet posted about the Girvan sea monster. I love this one, it is not often I get to post an article about a sea monster complete with a newspaper photo. Luckily some smart person took a picture of the carcass that washed up on the rocks at Girvan, West Scotland in August 1953.

Just as well they did, shortly after the townspeople, annoyed with the stench of rotting sea monster, poured oil over it and threw on a match, ruining any chance of the remains actually being identified.

A pity that instead of trying to hunt down the monster's mate, who was reportedly swimming near the coast, they didn't try taking a photo of that too!

Girvan is also known as a town close to where the coastal cave at Bennane Head is. This cave is was said to have been the home (den of evil?) of the cannibal family in the tale of Sawney Bean.

Sea monsters AND cannibals? The parents of that town would have had no trouble making up stories to scare their children!

SCOTLAND'S NEW SEA MONSTER



The decomposed remains of a sea monster which was washed ashore at Girvan, West Scotland, on August 15. The monster was 30ft long, with a 4ft neck, four stumpy legs and a 12ft tall. Inhabitants of Girvan said they had sighted the monster's mate swimming near the coast, and they spent days hunting it. The townspeople, objecting to the stench of the carcass, poured oil on it and set it alight.

The Sydney Morning Herald 9 sep 1953 <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article18383540>

2 comments on "Girvan sea monster: 1953."

Markus

on March 9, 2012 at 8:39 pm said:

I was also fascinated from the history of this region and used the story of Sawney Bean for my intro about the Girvan-Monster. Today I would like to rewrite the article as the intro is too long and I would like to add some more details to the carcass itself but anyway if you're interested in the history take a look at it (in german language but there's a translation too left): <http://www.kryptozoologie-online.de/Dracontologie/Salzwasserkryptide/girvan-kadaver.html>. In short I can summarize that the carcass was burned before experts have examined it. Nevertheless pictures were shown to various scientists and all of them identified it as basking shark. If you are confident with so called "pseudo-plesiosaurs" you will see why.'

metan

on March 9, 2012 at 10:12 pm said:

I didn't realize that Sawney Bean and the Girvan monster were neighbours until I was writing this post

and made the connection.

It is a pity that the carcass was burned before it had a chance to be identified but I suppose that way it can remain a mythical sea monster and not have the story ruined by fact. It always amazes me how people immediately jump to the conclusion that an unidentified sea creature lying dead on their beach is a 'sea monster'!

Photo: What's Up With This Goat Head Found In Prospect Park?

gothamist.com

Lauren Evans in News on Mar 3, 2014 1:55 pm



(David Rabig)

It's been almost four years since a goat head was last found in Prospect Park (that we're aware of), so we were certainly about due for another, assuming Goat Head Scattering is a quadrennial event like a total solar eclipse or the World Cup. Here's another angle:

(David Rabig)

030314goat.jpg



030314goat1.jpg

Today's head was found by the park's Lincoln Road entrance this morning, adorned with ear tags suggesting that it—along with a body, presumably?—came from a live animal market or slaughterhouse, and is not an escaped house pet or someone's ironic lawnmower.

Decapitated goats have popped up in various locations over the years, and are generally assumed to be part of Santeria rituals—animal sacrifice often commemorates "life events" like birth, marriage and death. While it is constitutional for practitioners of Santeria to sacrifice animals, the law requires remains

be properly discarded, which does not mean flinging them on the ground for discovery by area children chasing soccer balls or couples posing for wedding photos.

Now about that ear tag—the number "93" has significance in the law of Thelema, which boils down to "Do what thou wilt." In that case, the connection is clear—someone decided that they *wilt* throw their goat head on the ground like it's an apple core instead of placing it in the trash.

Alternatively, maybe an anonymous do-gooder has just planted a beautiful goat tree, and it's finally starting to sprout. Can't wait 'til spring!

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The New York City Department of Environmental Protection (NYCDEP) proposes to dredge an approximately 825 foot long area extending from the head of the Gowanus Canal to approximately the Union Street Bridge ("proposed project") in accordance with an Administrative Order of Consent CO2-20000107-8 ("CSO Consent Order") between the DEP and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC). The proposed project is expected to eliminate accumulated sediment mounds at the head end of the Canal and associated odors, and improve the visual aesthetics of the waterbody and substrate for benthic habitat.

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) placed the Gowanus Canal (USEPA ID#: NYN000206222) on its National Priorities List of hazardous waste sites requiring further evaluation on March 2, 2010. As DEP's proposed project was initiated prior to USEPA's 2010 listing of the Canal as a "Superfund" site and following NYCDEC's 2009 approval of the Gowanus Canal Waterbody/Watershed Facility Plan (WWFP), this environmental review and related permit applications have been developed to meet the terms of the CSO Consent Order between DEP and NYSDEC. On December 29, 2011, EPA released a draft Feasibility Study (FS) for the Canal. The draft FS contained remedial alternatives which included dredging as part of the overall remedy for the Canal. As such, DEP will continue to coordinate with NYSDEC and USEPA to ensure that the proposed project design meets the milestones required by the CSO Consent Order and is aligned with USEPA's overall clean-up program.

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13/09/2012

By William SchupbachFrom the Collections

The memento mori pictures in the Wellcome Library range from complex and learned allegories to popular works which encourage their owners to laugh in the face of fate.

A comparable collection, focused on the **Dance of death**, was acquired by the late Professor Hans Schadewaldt (1923-2009) for the Institut für Geschichte der Medizin at the Heinrich-Heine-Universität Düsseldorf, and has supplied material for several exhibitions and studies. [1] As this posting will show, the Wellcome Library's pictures, like the Düsseldorf collection, also provide a continuing stimulus to new interpretations; the opportunity to preserve rare works from destruction; and a context for new accessions. They also contribute to the study of a subject — attitudes to death — which (one might surmise) is manifested in cultural objects in every country on earth.



Chiaroscuro woodcut, 1588. Wellcome Library no. 33798i

One of the most elaborate of these documents in the Wellcome Library is the chiaroscuro woodcut from 1588 shown here. It depicts a complex monument to death, with, in the centre, the three Fates weaving the thread of life, and below them a wheel of death. At the bottom is a sarcophagus, and all around mortality-motifs are artfully disposed: they include skulls, obelisks, Father Time, Adam and Eve, and relevant mottos.

The woodcut is attributed to Andrea Andreani (1560-1623), an artist who worked mainly in Mantua and Siena. It bears his faint AA monogram in the lower right corner: it is faint because it is printed in the tone colour used on only one of the two blocks on which the design was made (one block for each colour used). That may be a way for Andreani to declare himself one of the few masters of the art of the chiaroscuro woodcut, as indeed he was.

Who was the author of this extraordinary composition? Not Andreani, who was a woodblock-cutter. There is a dedication in the lower left corner to one Pietro Cavallo by Giovanni Fortuna of Siena (1535-1611), and this inscription also names him as the designer. He is known to have practised as a goldsmith in Siena. If he produced this design for execution by himself in metal, as an object of virtu, he must have had a rare ability.



Engraving by or after G. Fortuna, ca. 1588. Wellcome Library no. 33803i

However he may have produced it as a design for an engraving, for another version of the composition exists in the Wellcome Library as an engraving (with etching), perhaps by Fortuna himself (image above). (The link between the engraving and the woodcut was first kindly brought to the Wellcome Library's attention by Malcolm Jones, and confirmed by Giulia Bartrum of the British Museum.) There are differences. The engraving has extensive lettering in Italian verse, lamenting the mortality of mankind: none of these is in the chiaroscuro woodcut, where only Latin and Greek are used (following the Latin and Greek wording on the engraving).



That suggests that the engraving was produced for a more popular market, and the woodcut for the elite. The drawing in the engraving seems less competent: this could mean that it is by a less skilled artist copying Andreani's chiaroscuro woodcut, or conversely that Andreani smartened up Fortuna's draftsmanship when he cut his woodcut, if Andreani was the copyist. A detailed examination of the two prints would be necessary to elicit the sequence of events.

The engraving appears to be very rare, and the Wellcome Library's impression survived until recently as a somewhat crumpled sheet with frayed edges (image right). Its rarity was a factor in the decision to conserve it last year. From the contrast between its state before and after conservation, readers will appreciate the improvement achieved by the Wellcome Library's conservator, Luana Franceschet.

Oil painting on wood. Wellcome Library no. 44560i

One of the **memento mori**-subjects depicted in the Fortuna prints is the three Fates, who sit in a kind of grotto within the arch.



They are the subject of a painting on wood (above) contemporary with Fortuna's composition. It shows the three Fates of Greek and Roman mythology: Clotho, Lachesis and Atropos. Clotho ("spinner") in the centre distributes the fibres from a distaff. Lachesis ("Allotment") on the right measures out thread on to the spindle, the length of the thread corresponding to the lifespan of a given person. Finally, Atropos cuts the thread at the moment of death with a large pair of shears: her name means "No turning back", because once the thread has been cut, it cannot be uncut.

This painting, assuming as it does a knowledge of Graeco-Roman mythology, is an example of the type of **memento mori** picture designed to appeal to erudite taste. Features of the picture typical of "mannerist" paintings of the later sixteenth century also imply an aspiration to the culture of Italy, Haarlem, or Prague: they include the silvery flesh-tones of two of the Fates, the contorted postures, and the "rosy-fingered dawn" (or dusk) in the left background.



As with Andreani's woodcut, so here, the painter was not the designer of the composition: the designer was apparently Philipp Galle of Antwerp (1537-1612), who had earlier published a much smaller black and white engraving of the composition which served as a model for our painter (image left). Such engravings were exported from Antwerp in vast quantities to serve (among other purposes) as models for painters in other parts of the world not so familiar with current fashions in art. The contorted postures in Galle's print may have seemed impressive to our painter or to his patron, but to anyone familiar with the life-drawing skills taught in Italian academies, the artistic anatomy will have seemed unconvincing both in the engraving and in the painting. (Left: Wellcome Library no. 45446i)

One of those less sophisticated parts of the world was England, and one can easily imagine the present painting proudly displayed in a wealthy house in Shakespeare's England. English painters of the time (and other artists such as cabinet-makers and plasterers) were heavily dependent on Flemish models, and had little or no first hand knowledge of such masters of artistic anatomy as Michelangelo and Raphael.

Yet literary Englishmen of the time were familiar with the mythology of the Fates. The painting embodies the scene that was in Shakespeare's mind when Brutus in *Julius Caesar*(III.i) says:

**Fates, we will know your pleasures:
That we shall die, we know; 'tis but the time
And drawing days out, that men stand upon.**

or when Bottom in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*(V.i) calls out:

**O Fates, come, come,
Cut thread and thrum;
Quail, crush, conclude, and quell!**



Another part of the world where Netherlandish models of mortality were used by painters was Bohemia, as is shown by a remarkable current exhibition in the Loreto pilgrims' centre in Prague. In the church of that complex—the Capuchin church of the Holy Nativity—wall paintings on the themes of death and resurrection have been discovered in a hitherto unknown space in the crypt.

The paintings were commissioned around 1664 by the then patroness of Loreto, Countess Elisabeth Apollonia of Kolowrat, and may have been painted by a Capuchin monk, copying Dutch and Flemish engravings of the Grim Reaper and similar themes. The crypt was discovered as a result of a mistake: researchers were looking for a documented crypt which was actually in a completely different building! Though the

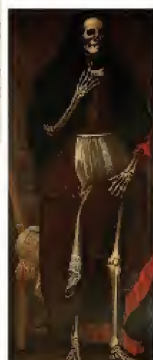
Loreto crypt itself cannot be opened to the public, an exhibition including a walk-in reconstruction of the space is on show until 30 September 2012*. A book [2] has also been published about this unexpected discovery, and a short virtual visit to the crypt is available online.

Engraving by Gerhard Altzenbach, 16—. Wellcome Library no. 803817i.

Among the Wellcome Library's **memento mori** prints are two by Gerhard Altzenbach who worked as an engraver and



publisher in Cologne in the mid-17th century. The Wellcome Library recently had the opportunity to acquire a third print by the same artist, showing a skeleton as a fashionably dressed woman. The verses below mock her as a modern Helen of Troy, who needs to think more of her soul: in the top left corner, the Last Judgment, with the Virgin and Jesus Christ intervening before God on behalf of the saved, are intended to remind viewers of the fate of everyone, however "fashionable, rich, capricious, and proud". The print is actually one half of a pair, the other showing a foppish man addressed as Paris, the male counterpart to Helen.[3]



Here too there is some relationship between print and painting, for a large oil painting in the Wellcome Library, from the South of France or Spain, uses the same idea (though not exactly the same composition: image right), showing that the Puritan contrast between enjoyment of life and meditation on death was not restricted to one geographical area. (Right: Wellcome Library no. 43944i)

A similar print, but with an unusual and clever twist, was acquired by our colleagues in the **Folger Shakespeare Library**, Washington, D.C., at the New York Print Fair in November 2011. Readers will surely enjoy the description by Dr Erin Blake on the Folger's blog, **Collation**. [4]

Many memento mori prints use ideas derived from the mediaeval theme of the **Dance of death**, often mediated through the woodcuts of the subject by Hans Holbein. It is remarkable how adaptable this theme has proved. Some artists have taken whole **Dance of death** and have set it in their times, while others have taken a traditional episode from the **Dance of death** and have treated it in their idiosyncratic style.



Coloured etching, 1808. Wellcome Library no. 493366i

Examples of the former are the series **Ein neuer Totentanz** (1947) by the Austrian Alfred Kubin, based on drawings executed in 1937-1938, and **The dance of death modernised**, a large etching (image above: sheet 56.8 x 72 cm.) by Isaac Cruikshank, 1808, after designs probably made by G.M. Woodward about a decade earlier, ca. 1795/1797. The latter contains twenty-four Georgian figures arranged in four rows, starting at the top left with a king and Catherine the Great of Russia (1729-1796), implying that Catherine had recently died: in vain she retorts to Death "Fellow!—I am an Empress!". It continues with a parson, a lawyer, a physician ("Here's fine encouragement for the Faculty!"), a

retired prostitute with syphilis, a gouty old man, etc.



An example of a single figure is this woodcut (left) produced in 1959 by Gerhard Marcks, and reproduced here as a new acquisition by the Wellcome Library. Marcks (1889-1981) was a sculptor and graphic artist whose many honours include his condemnation by the Nazis as a producer of "degenerate art". Marcks's graphic work shows an awareness of earlier German art, such as the macabre prints and drawings by the Germans Albrecht Dürer and Hans Baldung Grien, and by the Swiss Hans Holbein. (Left: Woodcut by G. Marcks, 1959. Wellcome Library no. 803818i)

However, here Marcks has given the theme an unusual twist by making the woman pregnant (**Schwangere und Tod**), a reference to the many deaths in childbirth that existed in his time and at all times. This print has been described by Karl S. Guthke as a "variation on the **Death and the Maiden** motif that goes back to the Renaissance and by 1800 had merged with the Romantic fixation on death in the bridal chamber". [5]

Oil painting. Wellcome Library no. 45066i

An earlier German painting of the entire **Dance of Death** in the Wellcome Library (image right) is the subject of an analysis by Aleksandra Koutny-Jones in the current issue of **Wellcome history**. [6]

Readers who have read this far share an interest in the iconography of death with Tim Knox, Director of Sir John Soane's Museum in London, who has described his new hobby: perusing the Your paintings database for "Morbid discoveries",



paintings of deathly themes. Referring to the Wellcome Library as a "fathomless reservoir", he draws attention to three Wellcome Library paintings on the subject of mortality (not the same pictures as any reproduced here), as well as to some grand history-paintings of death worth knowing about in other British collections, from Glasgow in the north to Dartmouth in the south-west.

Another scholar who shared the same interest was the physician Frederick Parkes Weber, the author of a substantial "anthology and iconography" entitled **Aspects of death and correlated aspects of life**. [7] As Weber was born in 1863 and died in 1962, Lachesis must have drawn out a particularly long piece of thread at his birth for Atropos to snip at just short of the 100-year mark. So great is the theme that any shorter lifespan is scarcely sufficient to get to grips with it.

[1] e.g. **Zum Sterben schön: Alter, Totentanz und Sterbekunst von 1500 bis heute**, edited by A. von Hülsen-Esch and H. Westermann-Angerhausen together with S. Knöll, Regensburg: Schnell + Steiner, 2006 (find in the Wellcome Library here).

[2] Petr Bašta, Markéta Baštová, et al. **Ars moriendi: the Loreto crypts**. Prague: Czech Capuchin Province, 2012. ISBN 978-80-905228-2-4 (English-language version). Online at http://issuu.com/loreto-prague/docs/ars_moriendi_en/3

[3] Impressions of the pair were with Antiquariat Franz Siegle, Mühlhausen-Kraichgau, Baden-Württemberg: **Der Sonderkatalog der Antiquare Siegle & Schwing, Totentanz: Bücher und Graphik**, no. 93 (online through <http://www.antiquariat-siegle.de/katalog.htm>)

[4] <http://collation.folger.edu/2011/11/a-trip-to-the-fair>

[5] Karl S. Guthke, **The gender of death: a cultural history in art and literature**, Cambridge University Press, 1999, p. 244 (find in the Wellcome Library here)

[6] Aleksandra Koutrny-Jones, 'A macabre mystery: the Wellcome Library's Dance of death', **Wellcome history**, 2012, 50: 14-16 Available free online at http://www.wellcome.ac.uk/stellent/groups/corporatesite/@msh_publishing_group/documents/web_document/wtvm056126.pdf

[7] Frederick Parkes Weber, **Aspects of death and correlated aspects of life in art, epigram, and poetry : contributions towards an anthology and an iconography of the subject**. 4 editions (1910, 1914, 1918, 1922). Find in the Wellcome Library here.

*STOP PRESS: the Prague exhibition has been extended to **November 2012**. They'll be hard put to find a more absorbing offering than this one!

Author: William Schupbach

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Saturday, August 6, 2011

The Great Trunk Mystery



Jacob Rosenzweig Rosenzweig Arrested

The afternoon of August 26, 1871 a porter at the Hudson River Railroad Depot in Manhattan, noticed a disgusting odor emanating from a trunk bound for Chicago. He notified the baggage master, who ordered his men to open the trunk and find the source of the smell. They lifted the lid, removed a blanket, and found the body of a pretty, young woman, with golden hair, jammed into the trunk, naked, in a fetal

position. The trunk had no address, and no one knew who had left it. The police seemed powerless to solve the "Great Trunk Mystery"

Date: August 23, 1871

Location: New York, New York

Victim: Alice A. Bowsby

Cause of Death: Botched abortion

Accused: Jacob Rosenzweig

Synopsis:

The first clue to the identity of the body came from a 12-year-old boy named Alexander Potts—known to his friends as Paddy—who sold newspapers and candy at the depot, and sometimes carried light baggage. Paddy remembered a woman in a calico dress who wanted to check in her trunk but was unaware that she would first need to buy a train ticket. He showed her to the ticket window and watched as she purchased a ticket to Chicago. The trunk arrived in a separate wagon and he helped move it to the freight office. Though only two and a half feet long, the trunk was extremely heavy.

Paddy remembered that the cart that had delivered the trunk had the name Tripp on the side. This sent police fanatically searching for a deliveryman named Tripp. At 1:00 AM they

tracked down a truckman named Trapp and took him to the Central Office, but Paddy Potts said he was not the man. It was not the only mistake the police made; the train left several hours after the body was discovered, and someone used the ticket the woman had purchased to travel at least as far as Albany. The police had time to intercept the passenger, but instead her identity remained a mystery.

The trunk was taken to the “dead-room” at Bellevue Hospital, and when removed from the trunk the body remained in the fetal position due to rigor mortis. It would have been impossible to bend the body into this shape after rigor mortis set in, leading the coroners to the shocking belief that she was put into the trunk while still alive. During the post mortem examination it was discovered that the woman had been pregnant and had died due to infection from metroperitonitis. She had apparently died from a botched abortion.



Two days after the body was found, a truckman named William Pickett came into the Eighteenth Precinct police station at 22nd Street, near 1st Avenue, and said he had read the newspaper and believed that he was the man who had delivered the trunk. This time Paddy concurred. Pickett said that a woman had hired him to pick up a trunk at an address on 2nd Avenue and deliver it to the depot. From the description Pickett gave of the people he met there, Police Sergeant Rooney knew immediately it was the home of Jacob Rosenzweig.

Though he would sometimes say he was Russian, Rosenzweig was a Pole, whose voice had “a twang of the German Jew,” and Rosenzweig was a well-known abortionist. He had previously kept a beer saloon but found abortion much more lucrative. At one time Jacob Rosenzweig had as many as five abortion offices throughout New York. In 1871 he lived with his family on 2nd Avenue and kept an office on 5th Avenue below Amity Street, where he practiced medicine under the name Dr. Ascher.

At the time, abortion was legal in New York up until “quickening”—the point in time when the fetus starts to move. But even then, the abortion law was seldom enforced and the city had dozens of abortionists who advertised publicly. Rosensweig, alias Ascher, ran the following ad in the *New York Herald*:

Ladies in trouble guaranteed immediate relief, sure and safe; no fees required until perfectly satisfied; elegant rooms and nursing provided. Dr. Ascher, Amity Place.

Though he denied any knowledge of the dead girl, the trunk or abortion, Jacob Rosenzweig was arrested for murder.

The body was still unidentified, and though it was deteriorating fast, it was put on public display in hopes that someone would identify the young woman. Hundreds of people, masking their noses with cloth saturated with carbolic acid to hide the smell, gawked at the body, and though there were several false identifications, most just came to view it out of morbid curiosity.



The arrest of Jacob Rosenzweig brought some information leading police a little closer to identification. Earlier in the summer, the *New York Times* had run an expose on abortion entitled "The Evil of the Age." An undercover reporter, accompanied by a female assistant, visited a number of abortionists, ostensibly shopping for an abortion, to learn the workings of the trade. The reporter remembered seeing a petite blonde woman when he visited Rosenzweig. He viewed the body and swore it was the same girl.

The real break came from a physician named Dr. Theodore G. Kinne from Paterson, New Jersey. Kinne viewed the body once and thought he knew who she was. He returned a second time with a dentist, Dr. Joseph Parker, who worked in the same office. Kinne recognized the woman as patient of his named Alice A. Bowsby; what made him so certain was a distinctive vaccination scar she had under her left elbow. Dr. Parker agreed, recognizing two fillings, an extracted tooth, and a scar from an ulcerated tooth, all of which had been his work.

The police searched Rosenzweig's house again, and this time found a handkerchief in the laundry, which, when viewed under a magnifying glass had the letters "A. A. Bowsby." But Rosenzweig was still proclaiming innocence.

When the news hit Paterson, New Jersey, Alice Bowsby's widowed mother was devastated.



Suicide of Walter Conklin, of Paterson, N. J., lover of Miss Alice Bowsby.

She had been worried because Alice had been missing for a week. The sorrow, tinged with the shame of the circumstance, was almost too much to bear. But the person who suffered the most was Alice's seducer, Walter F. Conklin. He was the son of Paterson Alderman Conklin who owned Dale's Silk Mill. Walter Worked as a clerk in the silk mill and on the day he heard the news, while the rest of the clerks were at lunch, Walter went into the room where the silks were stored, and shot himself in the head. He left behind this note:

I have had a morbid idea of the worthlessness of life, and now to be obliged to testify in this affair and cause unpleasantness to my family is more than life is worth. Good by, dear father, mother, brother and sister. Walt

Trials: October 1871

The evidence against Jacob Rosenzweig—now nicknamed "The Fiend of Second Avenue"—seemed overwhelming. The trunk with the dead body had been traced from Rosenzweig's house to the train depot; Rosenzweig was a known abortionist, and the girl had died from an abortion; the body was identified as Alice Bowsby, and a handkerchief with the name "A. A. Bowsby" was found in Rosenzweig's house.

But Rosenzweig had hired attorney William Howe of the law firm Howe and Hummel, notorious for successfully defending some of the worst criminals in New York. Using what the *New York Sun* called "a medical quibble here, a legal quibble there," Howe picked away at every link in the chain of circumstantial evidence. There was no proof that Alice was ever at Rosenzweig's house; Howe found an Anne Bowsby in Brooklyn who claimed she had known the Rosenzweigs for years and had left behind the handkerchief. Alice's mother hadn't identified the body she left it to "a hired dentist, and a hireling physician." And couldn't Walter Conklin have murdered Alice and sent the trunk to New York?

The jury was not swayed; they found Rosenzweig guilty of second degree murder—the highest charge available for death by abortion. The judge gave him the maximum sentence, seven years hard labor at Sing Sing prison.

Verdict: Guilty, Second degree murder

Aftermath:

Though Rosenzweig would bad mouth his attorney for not winning an acquittal, Howe did get Rosenzweig out of prison fairly quickly. He appealed the case on the grounds that the prosecution introduced evidence from a Nellie Willis, who had received an abortion from

Rosenzweig. This testimony unfairly brought a second charge against the defendant. The appeals court agreed and Rosenzweig was scheduled for a new trial in November 1872.

However, in April 1872, New York enacted a new law outlawing all abortion. Since the death occurred before 1872, Rosenzweig could not be tried under the new law, but since the new law repealed the old law, he could not be tried under the old law either. With no law to try him under, the court reluctantly released Jacob Rosenzweig. He was in prison less than a year.

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The Great "Trunk Mystery" of New York City. Murder of The Beautiful Miss Alice A. Bowlsby, of Paterson, N.J. Her Body Placed in a Trunk and Labelled for Chicago. Many Strange Incidents Made Public. Philadelphia, Pa.: Barclay, 1871.

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Greek New Testament Papyrus Is Discovered on eBay

nytimes.com

By JENNIFER SCHUESSLER NOV. 20, 2015



A papyrus fragment believed to contain lines from the Gospel of John, dating from A.D. 250 to A.D. 350. Credit Geoffrey Smith, via The University of Texas at Austin

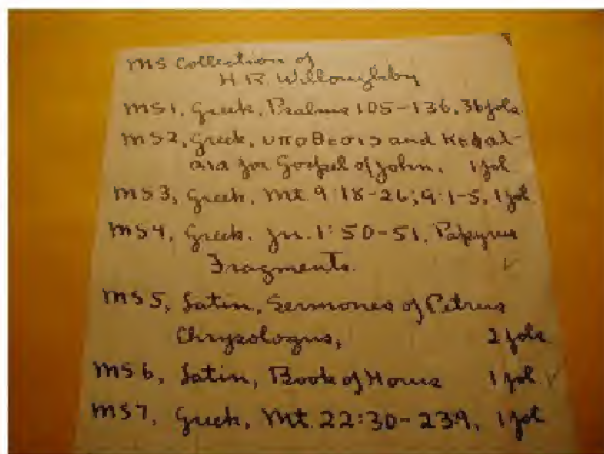
Last January, Geoffrey Smith, a scholar of early Christianity at the University of Texas, noticed something startling: an eBay listing for an ancient Greek papyrus fragment of the Gospel of John — with an opening bid of only \$99.

“I thought, This can’t be allowed to sell on eBay,” Dr. Smith said. “It will just disappear into a private collection.”

Dr. Smith contacted the seller and urged him to halt the online

auction — apparently the first on eBay for a Greek New Testament papyrus, he and other scholars said — and let him study the fragment. The seller agreed, and now, on Saturday, Mr. Smith will present his research at the annual conference of the Society of Biblical Literature in Atlanta.

The credit-card-size papyrus, which Dr. Smith dates from around A.D. 250 to A.D. 350, contains about six lines of the Gospel of John on one side and an unidentified Christian text on the other. If Dr. Smith’s analysis is correct, it is the only known Greek New Testament papyrus from an unused scroll rather than a codex, the emerging book technology that early Christians, in sharp contrast to their Jewish and pagan contemporaries, preferred for their texts.



A papyrus fragment believed to contain lines from the Gospel of John, dating from A.D. 250 to A.D. 350. Credit Geoffrey Smith, via The University of Texas at Austin

That adds an interesting wrinkle, scholars say, to the story of the rise of the codex, the book as we know it today. But the dramatic story of the papyrus’s emergence also speaks to a distinctly 21st-century technological anxiety.

“The fact that this one came to light on the Internet speaks to the reality for all of us who deal with manuscripts and antiquities,” Dr. Smith said. “We’re all trying to come to terms with these things we study, our prized scholarly possessions, are now coming up for sale online.”

Harold R. Willoughby's handwritten inventory list of his manuscript collection, which included the papyrus. Credit Geoffrey Smith, via The University of Texas at Austin Mr. Willoughby's signed passport. Credit Geoffrey Smith, via The University of Texas at Austin

Greek New Testament papyri are among the oldest and rarest traces of Christian scripture. Only about 130 have been recognized by the Institute for New Testament Textual Research in

Münster, Germany, which registers New Testament manuscripts of all types and oversees the effort to reconstruct the Greek initial text from surviving variants.

They are also a new entry into the growing — and, many scholars say, ethically questionable — online marketplace in ancient papyri.

"History doesn't belong to one person," said Brice C. Jones, a papyrus expert who tracks online sales, and who wrote about the eBay listing on his blog the same day Dr. Smith noticed it, inadvertently sending bids shooting up.

"Collectively, globally, it's ours," continued Dr. Jones, who also communicated with the seller, who wishes to remain anonymous. "It needs to be available for research, to be put on display."

Many scholars refuse to study manuscripts that may have left their country of origin illegally, and some refuse to study material in private collections, on the grounds it helps drive the market.

That market is certainly robust. A third-century fragment of Romans on vellum, Dr. Jones noted, sold last year at Sotheby's for nearly \$500,000. The seller of the John papyrus, meanwhile, was "harassed by collectors offering him absurd amounts of money," Dr. Smith said, declining to cite a specific figure.

While the original provenance of the Gospel of John papyrus is not known, Dr. Smith said that ownership appeared to comply with the Unesco convention, which declares that cultural property legally acquired before 1970 cannot be subject to repatriation claims. (Virtually all papyri come from Egypt.)

Dr. Smith declined to identify the seller. But in the text of the listing copied on Dr. Jones's blog, the seller said the papyrus had been in the private collection of Harold R. Willoughby, a professor of early Christianity at the University of Chicago who died in 1962.

The seller, who identified himself in the listing as a relative of Mr. Willoughby, told Mr. Smith that he had found the papyrus only recently, after opening a suitcase of Mr. Willoughby's possessions that he had acquired in 1990 and stashed in his attic.

The fragment, which was encased in glass, "literally fell out of a stack of letters," the seller said in the listing.

Both a collection inventory written in Mr. Willoughby's handwriting and a typed estate inventory compiled after his death listed the papyrus, thus confirming, Dr. Smith said, that it had been part of his collection in 1962.

The eBay listing identified the item's location as New Hampshire. Dr. Smith inspected and



A papyrus fragment believed to contain lines from the Gospel of John, dating from A.D. 250 to A.D. 350. Credit Geoffrey Smith, via The University of Texas at Austin
Harold R. Willoughby's handwritten inventory list of his manuscript collection, which included the papyrus. Credit Geoffrey Smith, via The University of Texas at Austin
Mr. Willoughby's signed passport. Credit Geoffrey Smith, via The University of Texas at Austin

photographed it during a visit with the seller in March in an undisclosed meeting place. "I have no knowledge of where it is being stored," he said. "But it didn't look like it has suffered any recent damage."

What the wider scholarly community will make of the new papyrus remains to be seen. But experts who have reviewed Dr. Smith's research say he has made a strong case — based on highly technical aspects of the papyrus — that it is from a scroll, not a codex.

That may seem like a subtle point, but it's significant, scholars say. Larry Hurtado, an expert in early Christian manuscripts at St. Andrews University in Scotland, said in an interview that early Christianity was "a bookish religion" that displayed a "maniacal

preoccupation with texts," with a clear preference for the codex at a time when it was far from obvious to most people that it was more user-friendly.

According to Dr. Hurtado's calculations, 97 percent of Christian biblical texts that survive from the first three centuries A.D., including those from the Old Testament, are codexes. Except for a few texts on the back of previously used scrolls, all known Greek New Testament papyri are codexes.

The new papyrus, on which the John text appears to be on the front of the scroll, "breaks that pattern," Dr. Hurtado said. "This shows that preference was not absolute."

The fact that it has another text copied on the other side (seemingly in the same low-quality handwriting), Dr. Hurtado added, suggests that it was intended for private study, rather than liturgical use.

"What we may have here is someone's prized possession," he said.

AnneMarie Luijendijk, a professor of religion at Princeton University who also reviewed Dr. Smith's paper, said that to her, the most intriguing aspect of the manuscript is that both the John text and the unidentified Christian text appear to be in the same handwriting — a very unusual feature for any of the reused scrolls, Christian or otherwise, that survive from antiquity, she said.

"If it was in a personal library, and then the same scribe turned it around to write the other text, what does that mean?" Dr. Luijendijk said. "It's really puzzling."

Dr. Smith said he continued to urge the seller to place the papyrus in a research library. He is also working on another Greek New Testament papyrus, a fragment of Ephesians that he

found the old-fashioned way: in a huge cache of manuscripts at Oxford University excavated in Egypt in the late 19th and early 20th century.

That pipeline of new material, he said, had slowed in more recent years, increasing pressure on scholars to be open to less traditional sources.

“It’s possible for things to come up online that are completely legal to own,” Dr. Smith said. “When things show up with appropriate documentation, we need to become more comfortable with studying them.”

A version of this article appears in print on November 21, 2015, on page C6 of the New York edition with the headline: New Testament Papyrus Is Discovered on eBay. Order Reprints| Today's Paper|Subscribe

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HOME HAUNTING

Is your renter
a nightly creature?
A closer look at
their wish list
will tell you

WITCHES

Desired location:
Salem, MA

-  Fully equipped kitchen
-  Big pantry
-  Spacious (broom) closet
-  Allows cats



VAMPIRES

Desired location:
Transylvania County, NC

-  Far away from churches
-  Dark window blinds
-  Spacious basement
-  Proximity to hospitals and blood banks



MUMMIES





Desired location:
Cairo, IL

-  Brick or stone house
-  Egyptian revival décor
-  A good air conditioning system
-  Solid locks and home safe



ZOMBIES



Desired location:
New York, NY

-  Proximity to cemeteries
-  Ground floor, no stairs
-  No need for an on-site gym
-  Nearby library or university



GHOSTS

Desired location:
Baltimore, MD

-  Old house, wooden floors and an attic
-  Good heating system
-  Adjustable lights
-  Close to known haunted houses



The Hamilton Murder.

A Most Mysterious Tragedy.

Special Dispatch to the Cincinnati Gazette.

HAMILTON, O., December 26.

The murder of Thomas Meyers, in George Johnson's saloon, in this city last Saturday night, is almost the only topic of conversation here now. The circumstances of the tragedy are so very peculiar that no one knows exactly what to make of it. The murder occurred in a room over the saloon, used as a bar bank, but in which were also several card tables, employed at times by those who wished to enjoy a quiet game of cards for amusement.

In this room, where the affair occurred, were gathered several of our prominent citizens, among whom were Col. A. C. Sands, Job E. Owens, Dr. Huber, Peter Schwab, David E. Brown, John McKinney, E. Bannister, J. C. Lindley, Samuel Davidson, Solomon Schurr, Colonel Sands says, however, that he had left the room before the shooting occurred, although he was there but a short time before. Of all those who were present, no one but Peter Schwab can give an intelligent account of what happened, and his statement is singularly deficient in some important particulars.

He says that he and Dr. Huber were playing casino at one of the tables. Colonel Sands and three others were playing seven-up at another, while Meyers and a number of others were engaged at the bar bank, George Johnson, the proprietor, dealing the game.

Of a sudden he heard the cry, "Oh, murder," and looking up he saw Meyers fall against the wall and sink toward the floor. As he slipped from his seat he discharged a revolver, the bullet lodging in the wall over the bar table. As he reached the floor he fired again, the ball being imbedded in the wash board just above the floor. At the cry of "murder" the room was cleared in a jiffy, only Schwab and Bannister remaining. Seeing that Meyers was badly hurt, Schwab ran out upon the street, captured Dr. Huber and brought him back, who examined Meyers' condition. He found that Meyers had received a pistol shot in the abdomen which had severed an important artery, and death ensued in a few minutes. In addition to this wound he had received three blows upon the head, evidently made by a slung-shot, either of which would have proved fatal.

Now, what is particularly curious about the affair is that no one saw the man enter and deliver these blows upon Meyers' head, and no one heard the report of the pistol when he was shot. The first circumstance which attracted attention was his cry of "Oh, murder." Of course, under these circumstances, it is very difficult to fix upon any one as the perpetrator of the deed. Suspicion rests, however, upon Tom. McGehen, a man who has had a deadly quarrel with Meyers for some time past. A boy stated that, shortly before the occurrence, he saw Tom. McGehen, his nephew, James McGehen, Jack Garvie, Daniel McGlynn and Ich. Sheely pass through the saloon below, and go up to the card room. Upon this statement a warrant was sworn out for the arrest of these parties. This morning, however, before the warrant was served, they learned that it had been issued, and voluntarily surrendered themselves to Eaprice Wilkins. Upon representations made by the defendants that the presence of witnesses from abroad was necessary to their defense, they were placed in charge of a constable and sent to the Hamilton House to be kept until Wednesday morning, when the preliminary examination will take place.

11/13/2015 by Michael Kleen



Haunted Beauty by Tim Weldon

Haunted Beauty: Aesthetics and Mindfulness in the Traditional Ghost Story by Tim Weldon is a brief but insightful book. Published in 2015, *Haunted Beauty* examines the literary tradition of the ghost story. Weldon, a Professor of Philosophy at the University of St. Francis in Joliet, Illinois, succinctly explains what makes ghost stories so popular. Though its academic tone is sometimes challenging, all readers will delight in the insights offered by this book, which includes examples from both modern and classic ghost stories.

In his introduction, Tim Weldon points out that ghosts are one of the only supernatural beings whose existence is continually in question. “As a subject, ghosts stand apart from the too far-fetched (no one asks if you believe in zombies),” he writes. In ghosts, we hold out hope for our own immortality. More than that, however, ghosts offer an intimate connection with the past. Ghost stories also offer us a pleasurable feeling of thrill, fright, and “the fun of the shudder.” Finally, Weldon argues that a great ghost story is great literature. One of the most beloved stories of all time, *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens, is a ghost story.

Haunted Beauty is divided into two parts. The first, “The All that Lingers,” is an exploration of sense and setting, time, and place in ghost stories. Part Two, “Thoughts Haunted,” is about why ghost stories are so psychologically appealing.

In “The All that Lingers,” Tim Weldon deconstructs the three essential elements of the ghost story: sense and setting, time, and place. Ghost stories are all about evoking ambiance—rich descriptions and details designed to provoke strong feelings in the reader. Ghost stories appeal to the non-rational, or pre-rational, imagination. In time, ghost stories are intimately connected with history. “Past meets the present in the ghost story as the physical presence of the ghost,” the author explains. He calls this “temporal fusion,” or the understanding of an ever-present past. Finally, in place, the author argues that setting is important to the ghost story, particularly the old house or manor. Ghosts thrive in old, confined places.

In “Thoughts Haunted,” Weldon argues that nostalgia is central to the ghost story. Every haunting is a re-encountering of something from the past, usually a departed person. So hauntings are intimately tied to memory. “To be haunted is to be reminded, at interval, of what is meaningful in our lives and also of the traumatic,” he writes. Ghost stories present the past as not some distant unreachable place, but as living in the present. They appeal to our deep psychological need for connectedness to those who have passed. “Haunting is ultimately *memento mori*, the acknowledgement of past and impending death, of others, of myself.”

We all enjoy a good ghostly tale, but if you want to have a deeper understanding of what makes ghost stories so appealing, as well as their significance in Western literature and

culture, *Haunted Beauty* is an excellent place to start. In this age of pseudoscience and reality TV, it is more important than ever before to reconnect with the literary roots of ghosts and ghost stories. This book brings a much needed scholarly perspective to the table.

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2015-06-12 16:29 Ecns.cn Editor: Mo Hong'e



*Police raid a secretive prostitution den near a graveyard.
(Photo/www.zjol.com.cn)*

Police raid a secretive prostitution den near a graveyard.

(Photo/www.zjol.com.cn)

(ECNS) -- Creepy shadows at night seen at an abandoned workshop near a graveyard in eastern China's Wenzhou city fueled rumors that the building was haunted, though a police investigation found it was actually a secretive prostitution den.

A 58-yearsold local from Wushiling village, Wenku town was the first to notice scary white shadows dangling in

the windows at night.

Several other farmers who passed the supposedly deserted facility also thought they saw strange happenings at night. During the day, the door and windows were all closed.

Local police started to investigate possible activities. Usually, two women would enter the room at around 7pm while a man driving a motor tricycle would deliver some men there later.

On June 9, local police nabbed five prostitution suspects at the site. A man, who was recently laid off work, has been charged with organizing the ring and detained. The other four suspects have been put under administrative detention.



Magic Venice

Certainly, there is no city in the world, in particular, any street or avenue comparable to the Venetian Grand Canal. The facades of majestic palaces dazzle and overwhelm tourists and visitors, whatever their origin. For lovers of the mysterious, the alleys and corners of this magical city is a paradise that explodes before their eyes at every step and every glance. Hundreds of ancient **legends** adhere to the rickety walls have been silent witness of the most incredible events for hundreds of years. **Conspiracies**, assassinations, wars, terrible plagues like the Black Death ...

If one walks at night through those streets, you can not help but shudder at the sight of a black cat crossing the Devil's Bridge, or listening nearby hurried steps as she crosses the alley of the murderers.

The dark buildings, many dam abandonment by their costly renovations and maintenance are just wet and corroded ruins where rats play hide and seek with the ghosts of ancient nobles of the past.

And of all the palaces, **Ca 'Dario** is, with its slightly leaning tower and facade of white marble, the most legendary of all.

Ca 'Dario is a cursed place whose owners, from the first in 1487 until the last in 1993, have died violently one after another after acquiring the property, in a trail of blood that continues to this day. In its five centuries of existence it can be counted on the fingers of one hand the palace owners who have managed to outwit the curse on her and who died a natural death. No wonder the Venetians call Ca 'Dario house that kills.



With that reputation behind him, and after its last owner, the Italian tycoon **Raul Gardini** committed suicide of a shot in the temple in the scandal processes Clean Hands corruption, it is not surprising that the magnificent Renaissance palace lead 10 years completely abandoned.

He was selling himself, but could not find buyer. And not only because of its high price, but above all the Venetians have, because no one dared defy the curse on the house. Now, however, a brave American millionaire just daring to stand up to spell and bought **Ca 'Dario**. Or you may have paid eight million euros for the house without knowing its grim past ?, many of the inhabitants of the lagoon wonder. But, above all, the question these days runs throughout Venice is: Will he return Ca 'Dario to impose their curse?



What is certain is that this palace has a considerable number of misfortunes, to call in some way. Already in the fifteenth century its first owner, the senator of the Serenissima **Giovanni Dario** suffered in the flesh (or more accurately, in the flesh of his flesh) the curse of the mansion. His daughter Marietta, who with her husband **Vincenzo Barbaro** also resided in the palace of yore, died of anguish that caused known in complete financial ruin.

Ca 'Dario then passed to the Barbaro family, against whom the palace also directed his fury, one of the heirs of the noble lineage was killed in Candia. Its next owner was very lucky either. **Arbit Abbdoll**, a wealthy Armenian diamond merchant, died in the most abject poverty, after he lost his fortune after buying the damn

house.



Centuries passed and the building continued making the rounds to anyone who dared to buy it. In the nineteenth century, for example, an American scholar of Venice called **Radon Brown** committed suicide within the walls of Ca 'Dario with his partner, after the scandal that erupted when it was learned that both men were partners. The palace then passed into the hands of fellow American **Charles Briggs**, who before the gossip about his homosexuality left Venice and sought refuge in Mexico,

where his lover committed suicide.

But the curse to this day. In 1970 the then brand new property owner, Count **Giordano delle Lanze**, was killed in Ca 'Dario by her lover, **Raoul**, a young sailor of 18 Serb opened the head with a bronze statue. After committing the crime, Raoul fled to London, which in turn was killed.

By then, the curse of **Ca 'Dario** was already in the public domain. But that did not stop Christopher Lambert, manager of The Who, bought it. But perhaps it would have been better if he had not. Shortly after purchasing it fell down the stairs of the London house of his mother, dying on the spot. Next was the Italian businessman Fabrizio Ferrari who, after buying the happy home, died in debt up to their eyeballs in a car accident. The same fate tenor Mario Del Monaco, who suffered a serious car accident that nearly cost him his life as he went to Venice to close the purchase of Ca 'Dario.

The house and passes to the financial **Raul Giardini**, who committed suicide in 1993, just a

day before the business group who ran went bankrupt. Since then Ca 'Dario was abandoned. So far, that has been acquired by an American millionaire. Is the more forgiving the palace show?



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Haunted Ships. 1919.

Posted by metan on June 12, 2012

Posted in: Fortean, old newspapers, sea monsters. Tagged: 1919, ghost ships, ghosts, haunted, history, news, ships. 12 Comments

I expect that in the days of sail every sailor had a tale of a haunted ship, a bit like every fisherman that has a 'one that got away' story.

Here are a few old stories re-told in 1919 that might entertain you.

I love the first one, off the Cornish coast a distressed boat was seen out at sea. Some brave sailors went out in a lifeboat only to find the ship covered in snow and ice. A sailor attempted to climb aboard the unseasonably frozen ship when it crumbles at his touch, never to be seen again.

Next, the ghostly three-decker in the Gulf of St Lawrence, its decks crowded with soldiers. I wonder who the beautiful woman was rumoured to be?

I love the last tale of the becalmed ship in the Sargasso Sea, not only were the travellers bored, they were also terrorized by creeping footsteps which proved to be those of an unearthly seaweed monster climbing up the side of their ship.

Perhaps instead of fleeing in terror they should have dealt with this monster in the same way the mermaids I have posted about have met their end. An angrily wielded oar to the head, and a splash...

HAUNTED SHIPS.

Sailors all over the world believe in phantom ships. I have spoken to a sailor who assured me he tried to board one once off the Cornish Coast.

It was in mid-winter, and from the shore lights could be seen at sea although some vessel was in some distress. The sailor and his companions went right out in a lifeboat and found a ship with no one apparently on board and laden with snow and ice. Astonished at this phenomenon, for the water had been singularly cold, the sailor was in the act of clambering on board the strange barque when the bulwarks crumbled away beneath him and he found himself in the water. The ship had completely disappeared.

In the Gulf of St. Lawrence, round Cape D'Espoir, the phantom of an old three-decker that was wrecked in the reign of Queen Anne is periodically seen hovering about the scene of its decease. Its decks are crowded with soldiers, lights flicker through its port-holes, and on the bowsprit an officer is observed pointing wildly at the shore with one hand, and at a white-faced, beautifully-clad woman with the other.

Screams fill the air, a gun goes off, the lights go out, and the ship suddenly and completely vanishes. The haunting merely re-enacts a tragedy and, unlike most of the other phantom ships, never predicts a catastrophe.

The Sargasso Sea bristles with ghosts, and the story is told of a big sailing ship that lay becalmed there becoming very badly haunted.

Every night the passengers and crew used to hear soft footsteps creeping along the passages and up and down the hatchways. Watch was kept, but nothing was ever seen until one night three of the crew who were on duty saw something rise out of a mass of seaweed alongside the ship, and plunging into the water, come swiftly towards them.

At first they concluded it must be some enormous animal, until it reached the side of the ship and began to climb up. Then they saw it was something quite different—something unearthly. Seized with the most ungovernable terror, they fled and aroused their comrades. Search was made, but the hid-

dened animal was not to be traced. Search was made, but the hideous phantom had disappeared. It was seen several times before the weather changed, and the vessel was able to proceed on her course.

12 comments on "Haunted Ships. 1919."

acflory

on June 12, 2012 at 10:58 am said:

I've always had an irrational fear of the Bermuda Triangle and these ghost ships of yours make me feel the same way. Ridiculous really as I don't believe in human ghosts so why should ghostly objects feel so spooky? Or maybe they're not so much spooky as sad?

I saw a movie a long time ago called The Ship of the Damned, I think. Set in WWII this boatload of Jewish refugees sailed up and down the Mediterranean looking for sanctuary and every country refused them. I've always thought that would be a ghost ship.

metan

on June 12, 2012 at 2:39 pm said:

Ships have always been named and assigned personalities by those who live on them so it is only logical that people would expect them to be able to haunt as well. Freaky, but logical...

I don't really like boats very much, well, I like the boats, it is just the open water that I hate. I have no problem believing that there was a 'Christine'-like boat out there haunting the oceans, devouring people *shudder* ;)

acflory

on June 12, 2012 at 6:35 pm said:

-giggles- Woman after my own heart! Boats are fantastic so long as they're in dry dock! I've been in a dingy, a catamaran and a couple of ferries and frankly I'm quite happy never to set foot on a boat of any size again.

metan

on June 12, 2012 at 7:45 pm said:

I remember going on a boat for a work do for the Man years ago, everyone was dancing and drinking and I was standing at the point on the boat furthest from the water thinking "get me out of here!"

Ferries don't bother me too much because they are usually going from one place to a clearly visible destination, we have been on a paddlesteamer in Echuca and that was nice too. Going out to sea? No thanks!! :(

acflory

on June 13, 2012 at 1:28 pm said:

Yes, I find the bigger the boat the less panicky I get although I know that that's probably just wishful thinking on my part. After the incident on that Italian cruise liner any tiny aspirations I may have had about going on a cruise are gone, gone, gone.

metan

on June 13, 2012 at 4:18 pm said:

:)

lorddavidprosser

on June 12, 2012 at 12:43 pm said:

Don't for heavens sake do haunted airplanes or no -one will travel again. Or maybe you're working for the airlines to drum up trade.

The last one surprises me since I thought ships never got out of the Sargasso Sea, in which case who came back to tell the tale? I remember a film of some kind with someone getting stuck there and finding people alive descended from Pirates who had been stranded there. They lived between the rotting hulks of all the boats/ships stranded there and were not what you'd call nice neighbours.

Keep up with the research Metan, you're a hoot.

Hugs

metan

on June 12, 2012 at 2:53 pm said:

:D Aeroplanes you say...hmmm... ;)

Apparently the Sargasso sea is a region of sea bounded by currents, not by landmasses (a gyre). I can imagine that you could easily sail out of it but if a ship was left to its own devices it would just go around and around with the currents, never reaching land.

I would love to know what that film was. They must have been pretty crappy pirates if they couldn't cobble together a boat out of spare parts and sail away!

Candy Korman

on June 13, 2012 at 1:03 am said:

Haunted ships are wonderful story starters. I also like the seemingly endless supply of spooky lighthouses on the East Coast of the U.S. Any inspiring lighthouses in Australia?

metan

on June 13, 2012 at 7:58 am said:

We do have some lovely one here. Maybe I will have to do a post about them sometime. A good excuse for a weekend away I think!

J. G. Burdette

on June 13, 2012 at 1:03 am said:

The seaweed monsters sound like something out of Scooby-Doo!

acflory mentioned the Bermuda Triangle. I'd love to know what it is about the area that causes so many crafts to go missing, on the water and in the air. Like the mysterious fog that envelops planes so that they don't even know they passed over the airport they were to land at. But then I guess it's just one of those unsolvable things.

metan

on June 13, 2012 at 8:03 am said:

It really does, doesn't it! "I would have got away with it too, if it weren't for you meddling kids!"

I imagined the monster being thumped on the head and splashing back down into the water. In the morning one of the crew is missing. Hmmmm...wherever could he be! ;)

There are so many TV specials about the terrors of the Bermuda Triangle, all with more amazing claims than the next. I love listening to their theories but I agree, if there is something strange about that place we will never really find out what it is. I would rather not know though, I prefer it to be a mystery!



Posted by: Kenneth Carlsson in News
September 16, 2014 0

A mummy in the cathedral? It may sound like a bad attempt at a student farce, but today the most famous embalmed person in Lund began his final journey.

Here the Mummy Leaves the Cathedral. Photo: Daniel Kodipelli. Bishop Peder Winstrup at the last casket opening in November 2013. Photo: LU / Gunnar Menander. Bishop Peder Winstrup at the last casket opening in November 2013. Photo: LU / Gunnar Menander. Bishop Peder Winstrup was brought to his final (?) rest in a hearse. Photo: Daniel Kodipelli. Bishop Peder Winstrup was brought to his final (?) rest in a hearse. Photo: Daniel Kodipelli.

The CEO, Per Karsten, of the Historical Museum is excited. In the cathedral crypt lies one of Europe's best-preserved bodies

from the 17th century. A sleeping gentleman whose beard, skin and nails are intact, albeit a little bit worn out after all these years.

"Peder Winstrup is perhaps our only chance to really find out what it was like to live in 17th century Lund. His body is a unique medical history archive," says Per Karsten

Peder Winstrup was bishop in Lund at the time when Skåne became Swedish, and he was also one of the important persons behind the founding of the university] After his death, he was placed in the cathedral.



Bishop Peder Winstrup at the last casket opening in November 2013. Photo: LU / Gunnar Menander.

Never truly at rest

It is not the first time Peder Winstrup is disturbed in his eternal rest. His casket has been moved around before. From the tomb chapel he was moved to the north tower. In connection with the renovation of the towers by the architect Helgo Zetterwall, he got a new temporary burial site, which would prove to be longer than ever before.

"The casket was supposed to be placed in the south tower as this site was considered nicer. But during the renovation he was placed in the crypt "temporary". And there the casket was standing for 150 years," says Dean Håkan Wilhelmsson.

Pictures of an exhumation in the 1920s gossiped that the body was unusually well preserved. A new opening in November last year confirmed the hopes – and opened up opportunities to examine the body thoroughly.



Bishop Peder Winstrup was brought to his final (?) rest in a hearse. Photo: Daniel Kodipelli.

Buried after 350 years

Soon, one year's intensive studies of Winstrup's body will take place, and hopes are that even the internal organs should be in a good condition. After that, the plan is to give Peder Winstrup a proper funeral, nearly 350 years after his death. The casket goes to the Cathedral Museum, but Winstrup himself is going down into the ground. But given the fact that the museum also preserves and exhibits other historical relics, it raises a question.

If the body is in such a remarkable condition

now, would it not be foolish to risk ruining it through a funeral? "The idea is that he should get a casket that preserve the body. It is important that future research can be carried out."

After a short service in the cathedral, Peder Winstrup's casket was finally carried out to a hearse, today adorned with the Danish and Swedish flag. A first journey to his final resting place. Or, at least, for now.

Text: Kenneth Carlsson

Translation: Lars Jansson

First published on lundagard.se September 11, 2014

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The history of American outlaw Lewis Redmond, the Robin Hood of moonshiners

lordsofthedrinks.com

July 22, 2014 by Micky Bumbar (Lords of the Drinks)



Lewis Redmond, the Robin Hood of moonshiners.

Probably everyone knows the story of Robin Hood, the outlaw who stood up for the poor when England was being oppressed by the Normands. But have you heard about Lewis Redmond also known as the 'Robin Hood of moonshiners'? He was a skilled moonshiner and bootlegger from the 19th century who became an outlaw after shooting a deputy U.S. marshal in North Carolina (USA). From then on he and his own merry men were hiding in the rough Appalachian mountains and became a hero to the poor locals, since he fought the tax collectors and supported them with the profits of the illegal liquor he made by moonlight.

Redmond was born in 1854 and 2 years later his family settled in the Middle Fork Community in Transylvania County, North Carolina. An incredibly rough part of the world where people had to struggle daily to survive. Most of the habitants were Irish immigrants who were already pretty accustomed to hard times. They tried to grow vegetables on the rocky ground of the Appalachians and further they relied on hunting and trading with other families. Nobody had an extra buck to spend but the system worked to keep most of them alive. That was until land taxes were introduced and people needed actual money. Most people saw only 2 options: leave the mountains and try their luck elsewhere or moonshining, distilling their own illegal liquor by the light of the moon.

Redmond was lucky enough to learn from some of the finest moonshiners in North Carolina, a state where the homemade spirits were known for their excellent quality. At age 21 he already had his own still hidden in the mountains and he had gained a reputation of making great whiskey, that he would deliver himself at customer's homes. In 1876 one of these drop offs went horribly wrong as Redmond was stopped by deputy Alfred Duckworth. He spoke the legendary words "Allright, put up your gun Alf, I will go along with you" and then shot him in the throat with a small derringer. The 24-year old officer didn't survive this shot and from then on Redmont became an outlaw with a 1.000 dollar reward on his head. A huge amount of money in those days.

Redmond instantly became a hero for many people in the Appalachian mountains, who had a serious problem with the law that made their lives so difficult. In other parts of the state and the country the Robin Hood of moonshiners was less loved but among his own people nobody seemed to be interested in the award for bringing him in. Redmond, who was part Indian, traveled from place to place leading a group of more than 30 men fighting the revenue officers. Or he hid himself in the mountains where he kept making moonshine. Since he couldn't settle down and spend the money on himself, he helped out poor mountain families

and became an even bigger hero to them. Newspapers (even national ones) gladly printed his latest adventures and even some books were written about him.

By 1879 Redmond moved into a mountain cabin near the Little Tennessee River. This hideout was raided three times by officers of the law until they finally caught the outlaw. The first time a friend warned him about the raid and Redmond escaped in a canoe down the river, just 20 minutes before the arrest team arrived. The second time was a close call. As the officers came in through the front door of the cabin, Redmond sneaked out a small hole in the back. The third time in 1881 the moonshiner didn't run from the confrontation but stormed out with a gun. He was shot 6 times but still he survived and was taken to the Bryson City jail. However he would only spend 3 years there as in 1884 President Chester A. Arthur would grant him a pardon.

After his release his days as an outlaw were over and he lived a quiet life until he died in 1906, leaving a wife and 9 kids. The production of whiskey had become legal and shortly before his death he was hired by a government distillery in Walhalla, South Carolina to improve it's whiskey, which till then was of poor quality. No matter how many laws he had broken in the past, no government official could deny Redmond's skills when it came to making liquor.

Micky Bumbar

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This entry was posted in Historic Tales and tagged 19th century, alcohol, america, american history, booze, Carolina, Chester Author, distillation, distillery, escape, history, illegal, Indian, lewis redmond, moonshine, moonshiner, mountain cabin, North Carolina, outlaw, pardon, robin hood, South Carolina, united states, usa, whiskey. Bookmark the permalink.

17 thoughts on "The history of American outlaw Lewis Redmond, the Robin Hood of moonshiners"



1. PorterGirl says:
July 22, 2014 at 11:00 am

What a dude.



• lordsofthedrinks says:
July 22, 2014 at 11:07 am

Indeed he was.... There are several other adventures. Actually he was captured once before the 3 times at th cabin, escaped and attacked the officers and liberated his friend too.

When in jail his wife smuggled in a gun and it almost came down to a gun fight in prison.

I would love to get my hands on a book about his life.

Cheers,

Micky



■ PorterGirl says:
July 22, 2014 at 11:22 am

Really interesting. Thanks for sharing this, brilliant as ever. Cheers!



■ lordsofthedrinks says:
July 22, 2014 at 11:26 am

Thanks a lot. My pleasure! :)



2. LAMarcom says:
July 22, 2014 at 3:45 pm

Great story.
Thanks for sharing.



● lordsofthedrinks says:
July 22, 2014 at 3:53 pm

Thanks. It was fun to do.
Cheers,
Micky



3. firecook says:
July 22, 2014 at 4:35 pm

Interesting . I had some moonshiners in my family years before I was born and my hubbies family had some too but they got in trouble because they pour the drink in water I guess to hide it and some pigs got drunk..Lol! Can you imagine drunk pigs ;) Bet if you was raising a hog like that it would give it flavor when served at the table..



● lordsofthedrinks says:
July 22, 2014 at 4:45 pm

Hahaha that must have been a fun sight. We made a post about 1 drunk pig before (see link) but a whole bunch of them... Oh boy!
Actually an English friend of mine had a husky dog who was quite the alcoholic. One time he smashed my glass of whiskey off the table with his forepaw and started licking it up from the ground. :)
Cheers,
Micky

<http://lordsofthedrinks.com/2013/09/10/drun-pig-gets-into-a-fight-with-a-cow/>



■ firecook says:
July 22, 2014 at 4:55 pm

That was funny;)Does sound Normal. Thanks for the story. That was a good one;)



■ lordsofthedrinks says:
July 22, 2014 at 5:19 pm

Glad you liked it. :)



■ firecook says:
July 22, 2014 at 5:21 pm

;)

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Hitler Died Peacefully in His Bed in Argentina?

02.10.2009

pravdareport.com

The death of Adolf Hitler still remains one of the biggest mysteries in history. There are numerous theories that mostly come down to speculation that the Nazi leader didn't die in his bunker, but managed to escape and hide. He allegedly was hiding for years and peacefully died in his own bed.

A few days ago scientists received the evidence that these theories might not be that far from truth. The skull fragment that was thought to be Hitler's turned out to be the remains of a woman.

For a long time historians believed that the fragment proved that on April 30th, 1945, the Führer took a cyanide pill and shot his head off when he realized that the Third Reich was over. His mistress Eva Braun committed suicide in the same bunker.

According to numerous witnesses, their bodies were wrapped in blankets and taken out of the bunker to a nearby garden. The bodies were soaked with petroleum, set on fire, and later buried. In 1945, Soviet special agents excavated the place of a likely burial and found the bones that were believed to be Hitler's.

A part of the skull was missing, which showed that the death was caused by a bullet. The preserved jaw fragment coincided with the dental records found at the office of Hitler's dentist. A year later, the missing fragment was found by the order of Stalin who had suspicions that Hitler managed to escape and hide.

In the mid 1950s, after Stalin's death, the skeleton that was presumably Hitler's was buried in Magdeburg, East Germany. In 1970, the skeleton was dug out by the KGB agents.

Only the jawbone, the skull fragment and the bloodstained sofa segments were preserved. The findings were sent to the KGB archives.

American specialists examined the bone fragments. According to Connecticut archaeologist Nick Bellantoni, the bone seemed very thin, male bone tends to be more robust. Besides, the sutures where the skull plates come together seemed to correspond to someone under 40. In 1945 Hitler turned 56.

Bellantoni believes that the studied bone fragment could not belong to Eva Braun either, although she died at 33. "There is no report of Eva Braun having shot herself or having been shot afterwards. It could be anyone. Many people were killed around the bunker area," the scientist said.

Nick Bellantoni received the bone tissue that was believed to belong to Hitler in Moscow, where the fragments were kept in the Russian State Archives and even displayed at an exhibition in 2000.

The researcher was shown the bloodstained upholstery from the bunker sofa which was

believed to be Hitler's and Braun's deathbed.

"I had the reference photos the Soviets took of the sofa in 1945 and I was seeing the exact same stains on the fragments of wood and fabric in front of me, so I knew I was working with the real thing," said the archeologists. The results of the research will be used as the basis for the US documentary *Hitler's Escape*.

Bellantoni was allowed only one hour in the archives, during which time he applied cotton swabs and took DNA samples that were sent to Connecticut right away. Linda Strausbaugh closed her lab for three days to work exclusively on the Hitler project.

"We used the same routines and controls that would have been used in a crime lab," she said. To her surprise, a small amount of viable DNA was extracted.

"We were very lucky to get a reading, despite the limited amount of genetic information," the scientist said. "That's how we found out that the fragment belongs to a female."

The story of the Nazi leader's death is still a mystery. Some scientists initially had doubts about his suicide and believed it was Nazi's propaganda created to present his suicide in a suitably heroic light.

Abel Basti, an Argentinean writer, was one of the first people to believe that the jaw fragment must be DNA-tested.

He explained that the scientists only had a chance to compare the charred jaw fragment with poor quality X-rays and the testimony of Hitler's dentist who could have lied. He believed that the scientists should compare his DNA samples with the samples of Hitler's sister Paula who passed away in 1960 and was buried at the Bergfriedhof cemetery.

Abel Basti is the author of the book *Hitler in Argentina* that describes his theory of Hitler's escape based on the real documents and photographs from archives. The writer believes that Hitler managed to escape to South America and live a long life.

In his book Basti states that on April 29, 1945 the Nazi leader was flown from Berlin to Spain on a Messerschmitt Me 262. From Spain, accompanied by Eva Braun, he went to Argentina by a submarine.

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Hitler's daughter dies in Moscow

16.11.2015 | Source: Pravda.Ru

pravdareport.com



Hitler's daughter dies in Moscow. Adolf Hitler

AP photo

It has been reported that 82-year-old woman named as Zinaida Popova, who considered herself to be a daughter of Adolf Hitler, died in Moscow.

The woman had an interesting life story that led her to make such a conclusion. Her mother, Maria Popova, an orderly of the Chapayev Division, used to serve as an intelligence officer in Berlin.

According to the Express Gazeta, Maria Popova did not shun at having affairs with Nazi officials.

Maria was in a bar at the moment when the Führer was partying there with his friends. Some time afterwards, Maria realized that she was pregnant. However, one can not say for certain that it was Adolf Hitler, who was the father of the above-mentioned late woman.

The investigation on the subject will continue.

Prior going into politics, Adolf Hitler was an artist and had painted about two thousand paintings. After he failed to become a student at the Vienna Academy of Art, he became very much attracted to military and political ideas.

Read article on the Russian version of Pravda.Ru

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Hobbits Were a Separate Species, Ancient Chompers Show

scientificamerican.com

Teeth from these diminutive individuals suggest they belonged to a unique species rather than a modern human with a growth disorder, as previously suspected

By Charles Q. Choi and LiveScience | November 19, 2015



A cast of the *Homo floresiensis* skull.

Ryan Somma/Flickr, CC BY-SA 2.0

An ancient, 3-foot-tall (0.9 meters) human whose diminutive stature has earned it the nickname "hobbit" has puzzled evolutionary scientists since its little bones were discovered on the Indonesian island of Flores. Some have suggested the individual was

a *Homo sapiens* with some miniaturizing disorder.

Now, teeth from the hobbit suggest it belonged to a unique species rather than a modern human with a growth disorder. The new research also suggests hobbits may share a direct ancestor with modern humans.

The 18,000-year-old fossil remains of the hobbit were discovered in 2003. Since then, scientists have suggested that the hobbit, which had a brain about the size of a grapefruit, was a unique branch of the human lineage *Homo*, dubbed *Homo floresiensis*. However, other researchers have argued the hobbit was really a modern human with microcephaly, a condition that leads to an abnormally small head, a small body and some mental retardation. [Real-Life Hobbit: See Photos of *Homo floresiensis*]

To learn more about the hobbit, scientists have now performed the first comprehensive analysis of the ancient human's teeth. The researchers compared the 40 known hobbit teeth with those from 490 modern humans from Asia, Oceania, Africa and Europe, as well as from a variety of extinct hominins, such as *Homo habilis*, which is suspected to be among the first makers of stone tools. (Hominins consist of humans and their relatives dating after the split from the chimpanzee lineage.)

The researchers found hobbit teeth were as small as those from short modern humans. However, other features of these teeth looked completely dissimilar from those of modern humans.

The hobbit teeth displayed a unique mosaic of primitive traits seen in early hominins mixed with more-advanced traits seen in later hominins, the researchers said. For instance, the canine and premolar teeth looked primitive, whereas the molar teeth looked advanced, or as if they had emerged later in the evolution of *Homo sapiens*, the scientists said.

These findings contradict earlier claims that hobbits possessed teeth entirely like those of modern humans. The results also suggest hobbits were not just modern humans with severe abnormalities, the researchers said.

The researchers found that the hobbit's primitive dental features are most similar to specimens of *Homo erectus*, the earliest undisputed ancestor of modern humans, from the Indonesian island of Java. However, *H. erectus* was about as tall as modern humans. The scientists suggest that on isolated islands, the ancestors of the hobbit underwent dramatic dwarfism, with their bodies shrinking from about 5.4 feet (1.65 m) to 3.6 feet (1.1 m), and brains dwindling from about 52 cubic inches (860 cubic centimeters) to 26 cubic inches (426 cubic cm).

"For me, this work will turn the tide about the question of evolutionary origin of *H. floresiensis*," study lead author Yousuke Kaifu, a paleoanthropologist at Japan's National Museum of Nature and Science in Tokyo, told Live Science.

While the human lineage generally evolved larger bodies and brains over time, the hobbit suggests that isolation on islands could substantially reverse this evolutionary trend, Kaifu said.

The scientists detailed their findings online Nov. 18 in the journal PLOS ONE.

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Wednesday, 28 October 2015

HORNING IN ON THE UNICORN SNAKE



Hoax unicorn snake - photo-manipulation to demonstrate what such an exhibit would have looked like (© Dr Karl Shuker)

During the Middle Ages and even several centuries later, explorers and travellers to exotic far-flung localities around the globe would often return home to Europe with unusual animal specimens as interesting souvenirs. Sadly, however, some of these items were outright fakes (such as the infamous 'Feejee mermaids', which were

composite creations deftly manufactured from preserved monkeys and large fishes) or deliberately misidentified objects (such as ibex or antelope horns masquerading as griffin or dragon claws) that had been sold to the unsuspecting voyagers at exorbitant prices by unscrupulous vendors.

An ophidian representative from these shaming cabinets of credulities was the unicorn snake. Generally procured in the East, this usually took the form of a dried, preserved serpent of fairly sizeable proportions but sporting as its most eyecatching characteristic a long spine protruding from the centre of its brow like a veritable herpetological unicorn.



Photo-manipulation close-up demonstrating what a hoax unicorn snake created using an inserted cut-down porcupine quill would have looked like (© Dr Karl Shuker)

Needless to say, however, an examination of such a specimen by an experienced naturalist invariably revealed that its 'horn' was merely a cut-down quill from a porcupine or a spine from a hedgehog or spiny-finned fish that had been carefully inserted and glued inside the serpent's head. I have also read of living specimens of supposed unicorn snakes, though I can't imagine that any snake would live very long if they had been subjected to such a barbaric treatment,

because the inserted quill or spine would probably pierce their brain.

Worth noting is that there is a real species of snake that is sometimes dubbed the green unicorn. More commonly termed the rhinoceros rat snake *Rhynchophis boulengeri*, however,

this green-scaled non-venomous colubrid from Vietnam and China earns its rhino and unicorn epithets from the very prominent, pointed, scaly protrusion borne upon the front of its snout like a small horn.



Head of a rhinoceros rat snake, showing its distinctive snout-horn (public domain)

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In the city of Cadiz there is an abandoned for years in which he is said to inhabit the spirit of a girl killed by her own mother mansion. His ghost seems to live in mirrors that are in the house ...

In the old part of the Spanish city of Cadiz, on the beautiful coastal area of the Alameda Apodaca and the monument of the Marqués de Comillas, an elegant three-story house and abundant windows evoking his past stands imposing architecture.

Legend has it that in this house lived an important admiral with his wife and daughter. The admiral, who adored and spoiled her daughter's account, he brought a new mirror every time he returned from one of his trips to America.

His daughter collected mirrors; and so, as a reflection of the affection that the admiral had for his daughter, over the years the house was repletándose of mirrors in which the beautiful girl could look again and again being satisfied with that beauty which his father assumed to your friends and colleagues.

While his mother, lost in the deep shadows of forgetfulness suffered increasingly jealousy and resentment towards his own daughter grew and grew increasingly.

As time passed, the arguments and fights between mother and daughter were increasingly frequent in the periods in which the admiral was absent. The mother-daughter relationship was increasingly contaminated by the secret hatred that had begun to grow in the mother, as low and as blind sentiment that eventually dragged the crime admiral's wife.

In one of those trips of her husband Admiral women took the opportunity to put poison in a drink and so put an end once and for all with that daughter whom came to see as a rival to which should settle to regain the love you It had been stolen ...

When the girl's father returned, she burst into tears knowing that his beloved daughter was dead. According to his wife a terrible disease was the cause of death.

However, while the father was crying inconsolably in her daughter's room, in one of the mirrors most appreciated her daughter appeared as a message sent from beyond the scene of what really happened and he could see his wife put rat poison in food, a poison that impaired his daughter until he died after a long agony ...

Stunned and full of anger at the bitter truth, Admiral forced his wife to confess to the crime and was ordered to make sentenced to spend the rest of his life behind bars solitude in a filthy prison. However, despite having done justice to the old sailor he could never live in that big house in which each mirror reminded him of his lost daughter. So he went away no matter the consequences (say it is not heard from him), leaving behind an abandoned house that would remain for decades.

During that time the history of the house of mirrors and what happened in it began to become better known and some daring youngsters took advantage of the night to go into it in secret and demonstrate their courage and investigate whether it was true that there was still living soul penalty of the murdered girl. People venturing into the old house claimed that on the top floor of the house could be heard weeping and wailing girl and the silence of the night seemed to bounce sound strangely in the mirrors, like the sob came from each one of them ...

But if there is something even more chilling is the story of those who dared to break one of the mirrors, as told in fragments of these his face is reflected, as if the piece of mirror refused to return his image, in place and if one was so imprudent as to stare long enough reflected appear dead girl, slowly poking his face with an expression of anger that would pale the bravest. Normally they terrified fleeing the place as quickly as possible and while fleeing could see from the corner of the eye as the girl watching them from inside the mirrors were still intact.

Currently the house has been restored, its walls were painted green and its entrance hung a sign that reads: "Alameda Apodaca SL Home Sales Luxury". However all this facade is an empty mask that fools no one because everyone who knows the legend and believes in ghosts, look with some fear or respect the house in which just a few years ago young people were organizing raids in group or contests to see who dared to stay longer inside the mansion. None dared to enter a second time ...

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How alcohol played a key role in warfare around the world

lordsofthedrinks.com

May 9, 2015 by Micky Bumbar (Lords of the Drinks)



Josef Stalin (left) and Winston Churchill both understood the importance of the occasional drink on the battlefield.

For centuries alcohol has always played an important, and sometimes decisive, role in warfare. As it brought the troops moral and courage in many armies the intake of booze was allowed or even stimulated. Other commanders believed it was best to keep their troops as sober as possible, so they wouldn't go out of control. But no matter if we're talking wine for the Roman legions, gin and rum for the British soldiers in the colonies, whisky during the American Civil War or vodka for the Red Army

during World War II, alcohol has always been an important issue in combat.

Ancient Greeks and Romans

Back in the days of Ancient Greece and later Ancient Rome it was quite normal to give soldiers a daily ration of alcohol. Most army leaders back in those days used free booze as a way to keep the troops motivated to keep fighting. Imagine that military campaigns in those times could easily take several years and alcohol turned out to be a great substitute for a warm household and a loving wife. It was also quite common to promise the soldiers 'as much as they could drink' when victorious in battle. The Macedonians of Alexander the Great for example were notorious drinkers. What better way to motivate them to conquer half the civilized world than promising them drunken orgies? When the Greek moral was down during the Trojan War, the cunning Odysseus used the same strategy to keep the troops from mutiny.

The Greeks also served wine (often mixed with water) to keep the troops in a healthy shape. The Romans did the same with a drink called posca. This was wine that was already turning sour, mixed with water. It became the drink of the normal soldiers and many of them swore of wine, since it was considered a decadent drink. Some high ranked officers, like Hadrian, also drank posca to show their solidarity with the troops. But in battle both the Greeks and the Romans were usually pretty sober, as in general they drank less than opponents like the Huns, the Visigoths or the Thracians.

The Vikings

In the early Medieval Times the Vikings scared the hell out of Europe. Up till today they have a reputation of fearless drunks, who killed everything in their way. But in fact the Vikings were a lot more disciplined than they often get credits for. Especially during military campaigns

they arrived pretty sober. Although every victory was of course celebrated with a lot of beer, ale and mead. Interesting to mention is a tradition the Vikings and other Germanic tribes had. When they had to decide if they wanted to go to war or not, or any major decision for that matter, they would have a huge drinking session, till everyone was smashed and discuss the pros and cons of going to war.

The Roman writer Publius Cornelius Tacitus witnessed this and wrote in his book *Germania*:
"For they think that at no time is the mind more open to simplicity of purpose or more warmed to noble aspirations. A race without either natural or acquired cunning, they disclose their hidden thoughts in the freedom of the festivity. Thus the sentiments of all having been discovered and laid bare, the discussion is renewed on the following day, and from each occasion its own peculiar advantage is derived."



The Knights Templars had the reputation of being notorious drunks.

The Middle Ages

This era was also known as the Dark Ages. After the fall of the Western Roman Empire, Europe was set back in time hundreds of years. As clean water was hard to find, everyone drank beer or wine. And like in all times, nobody would drink more than the soldiers fighting the many pointless battles of those days. On the crusades, set out to liberate the Holy Land from the Muslims, the most notorious drinkers were the Knights Templars, or just Templars. This special unit of fighting monks was usually heavily intoxicated as they robbed, raped and murdered in the name of the

Lord. No wonder in those days 'to drink like a Templar' became a popular expression, used when someone got really smashed.

Samurai

The Japanese Samurai were a very disciplined military force, who valued their traditions.

One of those was the *Bushi-nin* ritual, in which the warriors had a glass of the national drink sake together before battle. They promised each other to either be victorious or die an honorable death. Although the Samurai ceased to exist in the late 1900's, there was a revival of their old traditions during World War II. Japanese kamikaze pilots that crashed their planes into American ships, would have their own bushi-nin before doing so.

After a military campaign the alcohol intake of the Samurai was significantly higher. Getting smashed was pretty normal and in some cases it was actually considered quite rude not to get drunk. The Samurai in general ruled a tight ship when it came to good manners, but these drinking parties were the only times when they were often overlooked and normal soldiers could get away with not giving their superiors the required respect.

The Colonial Era and Dutch Courage

As Europe developed itself on a cultural level, the wars never stopped. But not just to gain territory. As more and more countries gained colonies in America or Asia, there were more and more battles at sea. Spain, Portugal, England and Holland were constantly trying to be the supreme force that could control the trade between the old continent and the new

territories. The Dutch authorities had a strange but practical system to reach this goal; legal pirates. This basically meant that people could get a license to plunder all ships of Holland's enemies, as long as they gave a percentage to the Dutch state. The sailors who went on these missions usually had little to lose and were most of the time far from sober. For the English reason to come up with the term 'Dutch Courage', an expression that's still around when someone first needs a few drinks before doing something brave, like asking a girl out. Another reason to drink was the large amount of diseases the Europeans could get in the colonies. The drink gin-tonic for example thanks its origin to the fact that many British soldiers caught malaria in India. The treatment quinine was rather bitter and to make it drinkable the British officers started adding gin to it. Winston Churchill later once said that these early gin-tonic cocktails saved more English lives than all the doctors in the Empire. On the other side of the mighty British Empire rum was very popular among the troops. These distilleries, mostly located in Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago, would soon enough provide the whole British army with their daily ration of Dutch Courage.

Napoleonic Wars

A famous quote by Napoleon is: "In war there is always time for champagne. In victory one deserves it, in defeat one needs it." Well ironically the moments he needed his bubbles the most were caused by a bunch of huge drunks. During the Napoleonic Wars the British Army gained a reputation of being quite *slewed*, *lushy* or *malty*, as they would say in those days, when going to battle. The daily booze ration for British soldiers back in the days was a gallon (3.78 liters) of beer, a pint of wine or half a pint of spirits, usually rum. When the soldiers wanted to test the quality of the rum they would mix some gunpowder with it and tried to light it. In case of success they were sure there was at least 57% alcohol in their drink. Another interesting fact is that in those days most of the soldiers who were fighting for the British were actually recruited with alcohol. After some hours of free boozing, people would sign anything. Many were surprised the next morning when they found out they agreed to fight for the British cause. Many other countries handled the same strategy to increase their armies.

American Civil War

Another war that might have taken a decisive turn because of alcohol is the American Civil War. And not just because the victorious general Ulysses S. Grant was a huge drunkard. More important was that the Southern States prohibited the distillation of whisky during the war, mostly because they were afraid there would not be enough food left. Plus they wanted to use the copper from stills to make more canons. The Northern States however kept on making bourbon and taxed the whisky. This extra source of income might well have been the decisive factor that won the war.

World War I

If there was one war that was so brutal and traumatizing for soldiers that it made them reach for the bottle, it must have been World War I, also known as The Great War. Many countries maintained a strong anti-alcohol campaign in a desperate attempt to keep their soldiers sober. Already in the first month (August 1914) of the war the Russian tsar Nicholas II prohibited the production and sale of vodka. A huge mistake as it turned out. The moral of the Russian army was extremely low and the total tax revenue of the state dropped by 30%.



Allied forces are having a drink during World War I.

Military losses and growing poverty in the Russian Empire gave the Communists the chance to seize control over Russia and execute of the tsar and the imperial family.

In England the influential politician David Lloyd George in January 1915 spoke the historical words: "Britain fights Germans, Austrians and Drink. And as far as I can see the greatest of these foes is Drink." Lloyd George even hinted on total prohibition for Britain during the war, but there was too much opposition to really make that happen.

Meanwhile the French chose another way to go and started serving more and more as the brutal war continued. In the early days the daily ration per soldier was a quarter of a liter of wine. Later this was raised to half a liter and by 1916, when a breakthrough seemed far away for any of the fighting parties, to a quarter of a liter with the opportunity to buy more wine. Something that many French soldiers did if they had any money.

The Red Army

If there was an award for biggest drunks during World War II there was no doubt that it had to go to the Russians, also known as the Red Army. For sure Soviet-leader Jozef Stalin had learned from Nicholas' mistake during the First World War and he gave his soldiers a daily ration of vodka, amounts that increased as the war continued to keep the moral up. There are several reports on Russians attacking German forces, while drunk out of their mind. And then there were bonuses to be earned. The book *Story of a Real Man* by Boris Polevoi mentioned how a Russian pilot that would shoot down a German plane would get an extra deciliter of vodka with his dinner.

The Russian writer Viktor Erofeyev stated in 2002: "The daily ration of vodka given to Russian soldiers in World War II was as important as katyusha rocket launchers in the victory over Nazism."

Micky Bumbar

18 thoughts on "How alcohol played a key role in warfare around the world"



1. Brian says:
May 9, 2015 at 5:16 pm

Great post! Thanks for the history lesson!

LikeLiked by 1 person

Reply



• Micky Bumbar (Lords of the Drinks) says:
May 9, 2015 at 5:27 pm

Thanks a lot mate, it was my pleasure. Glad you liked it.
Cheers,
Micky

LikeLike

Reply



2. bipman says:
May 9, 2015 at 5:45 pm

It's always easier to fight when pissed; look at Colchester on a Saturday night!

LikeLiked by 1 person

Reply



• Micky Bumbar (Lords of the Drinks) says:
May 9, 2015 at 5:51 pm

Hahaha true... The best are those skinny guys who think they can take on bouncers when they're smashed. Dutch courage can take you far but it has its limits! ;)

LikeLike

Reply



3. Amy Parmeter says:
May 9, 2015 at 6:32 pm

Great fun! Love – and totally respect – the Napoleon quote!

LikeLiked by 1 person

Reply



• Micky Bumbar (Lords of the Drinks) says:
May 9, 2015 at 6:52 pm

Absolutely... The little man knew what he was talking about.

LikeLike

Reply



4. Ladies Chillout Lounge (www.ladieschillout.com) says:
May 11, 2015 at 6:25 am

I have a feeling a lot of startup companies came into existence the same way Vikings “discussed” going to war. LOL

LikeLiked by 1 person

Reply



• Micky Bumbar (Lords of the Drinks) says:
May 11, 2015 at 2:31 pm

Hahaha true true... Well let's be honest, the most creative ideas are usually born during those drinking sessions.

LikeLike

Reply



5. Steph says:
May 13, 2015 at 4:48 pm

this is the last post i saw in my reader. :)

and i am perfectly sober, so am scratching my head. lol :)

LikeLiked by 1 person

Reply



• Micky Bumbar (Lords of the Drinks) says:
May 13, 2015 at 5:16 pm

Haha yeah that's good... Wrote that with the Micky Bumbar a.k.a. Balkantales account. We picked up some new contributors for LOTD. That's why I wanted separate accounts. Looks cooler I believe. Unfortunately when I sent an invitation to my own e-mail address I saw that I could not get rid of my old login name Balkantales. The blog has been removed, but its name lives on! ;)

LikeLiked by 1 person

Reply



■ Steph says:
May 13, 2015 at 5:21 pm

ok, good to know. i just didnt want to be stalked by a deleted blog. :)

LikeLiked by 1 person



■ Micky Bumbar (Lords of the Drinks) says:
May 13, 2015 at 7:28 pm

It does boost the amount of followers! ;)

LikeLiked by 1 person

6. Pingback: Historian concludes: "While they drink rakia, the Bulgarians are invincible" | Lords of the Drinks



7. Mary Angelique says:
September 30, 2015 at 11:11 pm

Good day! :) nice lesson :) helped a lot.. But hmm do you know which battle did the Romans fight in which they were victors then they drunk and then there was a sudden attack which caused them defeat? Thanks :) i need it for my report tomorrow ^_^ thanks!!

LikeLike

Reply



• Micky Bumbar (Lords of the Drinks) says:
October 1, 2015 at 10:15 am

Hi Mary Angelique,
Unfortunately I haven't heard of this battle. Will do some research but can't promise I'll come up with it in a day.
Cheers,
Micky

LikeLike

Reply

8. Pingback: 10 alcoholic drinks to replace the pills in your medicine cabinet | Lords of the Drinks

9. Pingback: How New Zealand was saved from prohibition by its soldiers after World War I | Lords of the Drinks

10. Pingback: How a brave man and 3.25 liters of wine saved a German town | Lords of the Drinks

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by Michael Rosen | November 16, 2015 5:02 p.m.
November 16, 2015 5:02 p.m.

Housed in Philadelphia is The Mutter Museum, significant because it's one of the world's only "anatomical museums." Both Fox Connecticut and the *New Haven Register* published pieces today on one of the more curious items on its way to the Mutter Museum's collection: a 200-year-old mummified baby. It's making a quick stop at Quinnipiac University in Hamden, Conn., before heading over to the museum.

Let's all learn a bit about this very old baby mummy together, via the *Register*:

Partially dissected and mummified, probably with a mixture of salt and sugar, the infant, as well as a woman's arm, also mummified, were used to teach anatomy to medical students and were stored in a molasses barrel at a doctor's home in Seattle. They were discovered in the barrel in Quebec about 1850, according to information from the doctor's family.

"It's about 150 to 200 years old," said professor Jaime Ullinger, co-director of the Bioanthropology Research Institute at Quinnipiac University. "It was prepared likely by a physician. It's a very good dissection."

The merits of the dissection are further praised by Gerald Conlogue, a director of the Quinnipiac Institute and friend of the Mutter Museum, who told the *Register* that "very, very skilled people did these dissections."

http://player.ooyala.com/iframe.js#pbid=3c1df42a0ea4920b9489cfaaf8aec88&ec=E4c2x2eDrzRc5bGtjguUZ0vdgoL8uYv_

One student studying the baby mummy noted the dehydrated nature of the mummy:

"The fact that the mummy is dehydrated — that's all good with us," said Victoria Ferrante of East Rockaway, New York, a senior. "We needed to see bone ... to see the skeletal age of the mummy."

It's all good with me, too.

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How Mahatma Gandhi killed thousands of Indians with his call for prohibition

lordsofthedrinks.com

February 4, 2015 by Micky Bumbar (Lords of the Drinks)



Mahatma Gandhi is considered a national hero in India but actually he is responsible for the death of thousands of Indians.

When we are discussing inspiring people of the 20th century we usually hear names like Nelson Mandela, Martin Luther King and Mahatma Gandhi. That last one can be erased from the list as soon as possible, as far as we are concerned. Sure, his nonviolent fight for the civil rights of Indians was impressive, but how many died after that because of his ideas on alcohol? Inspired by

Gandhi's ideology several states in India cling on to prohibition till this very day. And the situation is a lot more horrifying than the glory days of Al Capone in the United States. By now the peaceful Mahatma Gandhi has the blood of thousands of people on his hands.

Let's start with a quote from Gandhi in his own magazine Young India: *"You will not be deceived by the specious arguments that India must not be made sober by compulsion, and that those who wish to drink must have facilities provided for them. The state does not cater for the vices of its people. We do not regulate or license houses of ill-frame. We do not provide facilities for thieves to indulge their propensity for thieving. I hold drink to be more damnable than thieving and perhaps even prostitution. Is it not often the parent of both?"*

Let's look beside the fact that the ridiculous statement that people who drink become whores and thieves and see the stupidity of the rest of the message. The state should not allow facilities to drink? Brilliant, the states Gujarat, Nagaland and Mizoram nowadays have complete prohibition. As well as parts of Manipur and Lakshadweep. And whenever there's a national holiday ironically there's a nationwide ban on alcohol sales. The result is that the people in those areas rely on illegal moonshine. Some of that liquor is just poison and that's why we see headers like *'More than 100 people dead in India because of alcohol'*. All because the national hero of India thought it was best that the state gave full control over the market to quacks and crooks.

Crooks? Yes, by prohibiting booze these dry provinces created a huge black market. Besides some hobbyists, idealists and poor fortune seeers the liquor market is owned by hardcore criminals. Basically the government created a new way to make money for the mafia. And by



Man is hospitalized after drinking moonshine in Ahmedabad in 2009. At this occasion in the province Gujarat, that prohibits alcohol, 136 people got killed.

making the bad guys rich it keeps itself poor, since India is missing out on quite some tax money. Just like the prohibition in America contributed to a major financial crisis in the 1930's.

Now we get to the moral aspect and we kick off with another quote from Gandhi as published in his weekly journal Harijan: *"Having identified myself with labour, I know what ruin drink has brought to the homes of labourers given to drink. I know that they will not*

touch liquor if it was not within easy reach. We have contemporaneous evidence that drinkers themselves are in many cases asking for prohibition."

Without a doubt there are a few people who think like this and they are already in too far. These are the kind of people that in other countries would visit AA-meetings. But is this really the group we should focus on to ban a good thing for everyone? In general with prohibition you get the principle of the cookie jar. Meaning people are more likely to drink when they are actually not supposed to. Again we can point at the dry spell in the States which actually caused more people to drink than ever before.

Let's see another quote by Gandhi in Young India: *"I would rather have India reduced to a state of pauperism than have thousands of drunkards in our midst. I would rather have India without education if that is the price to be paid for making it dry."* These phrases are so retarded they need no further comment but let's do it anyway. Basically he says he rather has no doctors, no justice system, no architects or inventors who can improve the standard of living, as long as people are sober. Let's not even start about creative artists. We're living as cavemen now but at least we're not drinking.

Well, we can go on for days with more stupid quotes like this. Fact is that someone who raised his right hand for freedom, took some of his own people with his left hand. Instead of simply banning alcohol, he could try to change the drinking culture by education. Adult Italians hardly ever drink to excess, probably because as little kids they already drink small amounts of wine at the dinner table with their parents. And even if someone wants to get smashed after a long working week, is that so bad? Who are you to take that away Mister Gandhi, champion of civil rights?!

Micky Bumbar

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The Indian hangover cure: Palak Masoor DalIn "Hangover Cure Recipes"

How New Zealand was saved from prohibition by its soldiers after World War II in "Historic Tales"

Sober in Sochi, the Olympic spirit is murdered!! in "News"

This entry was posted in Historic Tales, Opinion and Background and tagged 2009, AA, Ahmedabad, Al Capone, alcohol, alcohol problem, anonymous alcoholics, booze, civil rights, crazy, crisis 1930's, dead by alcohol, death, deaths by alcohol, drinking, dry spell, financial crisis, Gandhi, Gandhi on alcohol, Gandhi on drinking, Harijan, headers, history, india, India without education, Indian prohibition, intelligence, Italians, Italy, liquor, Mahatma Gandhi, Martin Luther King, Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, moonshine, Moonshine in India, Nelson Mandela, news, newspapers, opinion, politics, prohibition, sobriety, spirits, travel, united states, wine, Young India. Bookmark the permalink.

15 thoughts on "How Mahatma Gandhi killed thousands of Indians with his call for prohibition"

1. Slayer says:

February 4, 2015 at 3:48 pm

Getting "smashed after a long working week" should be compulsory. There should be an international law compelling Friday-and/or -Saturday smashedness.

• lordsofthedrinks says:

February 4, 2015 at 4:04 pm

Hahaha I will never force anyone to drink but I'm a master in building up the group pressure! ;)

Cheers,

Micky

2. bipman says:

February 4, 2015 at 3:50 pm

I've a mind to make my own moonshine here due to the duty on our booze.

• lordsofthedrinks says:

February 4, 2015 at 4:06 pm

Yeah... It is my dream to make my own spirit too. Unfortunately my Dutch city Tilburg is known for it's drug labs and weed plants so the cops are always looking for suspicious things. A still may catch their eye and I'd hate for my booze to be confiscated.

3. PorterGirl says:

February 4, 2015 at 4:25 pm

Whilst I would never deride another culture or any lifestyle choices of individuals, this is

stupid in the extreme. Never once have I had to resort to stealing or prostitution to fulfil my need to have a little drink. I can respect Ghandi's choice to shun alcohol, but to say that education and progression should be abandoned in favour of prohibition is crazy talk. That chap needs a good stiff whiskey to calm his nerves.

• lordsofthedrinks says:

February 4, 2015 at 4:28 pm

I was also shocked when I saw these quotes. It's so extreme for someone who is considered to be one of the great ones in world history.

Cheers,

Micky



4. Thomas G. says:

February 5, 2015 at 4:31 am

Not only do I [obviously] disagree with prohibition of alcohol... I don't agree that whores or prostitution should be illegal either. It seems I'm at odds with Gandhi.

• lordsofthedrinks says:

February 6, 2015 at 2:45 pm

Absolutely... Prostitutes also reduce the number of rapes. Never been to one myself but I respect them a lot.

Cheers,

Micky

5. FreedomTrapped says:

February 9, 2015 at 11:54 am

Reblogged this on FreedomTrapped.

6. bloggerszim says:

February 14, 2015 at 10:25 am

Reblogged this on Bloggers Zimbabwe.

Liked by 1 person

7. arman says:

February 26, 2015 at 5:26 pm

Odd to say MKG is to blame. Do we blame parents if the children turn out to be murderers? What about Rapes? Or what of simple violence on the street. Now you might say they are 2 different cases but you bring murder into the picture. No doubt it a false premise that prohibition works but Gandhi is talking on his level. His minions don't need to listen to him. Frankly none of the country did except his home state. NE states have their inspiration from Church. Drinks over there mean violence due to extreme

unemployment. If 100 youth drink in Delhi they work the next day. In NE those youth drink again. My point is drinking in Main land and NE creates different scenarios. Secondly if something is banned, most citizens would abide by it, not go in search of breaking the law. Its the same with murderers and rapists. They will break the law anyways, it just happened to be by drinking spurious liquor.

Indian culture has developed differently from the rest. If we want to join the Rest of the world, you cannot choose one habit and keep the rest out.

Try to look at MKG not as a political leader but as an ascetic that he is; They don't need to be followed but then his words makes more sense.

- lordsofthedrinks says:

February 28, 2015 at 8:34 pm

Well someone who rather sees his people live the life standards of cavemen rather than granting them alcohol is a seriously confused soul I would say.

Cheers, Micky

8. Pingback: Xenophon's beer experience in Armenia | Lords of the Drinks

9. Pingback: The Indian hangover cure: Palak Masoor Dal | Lords of the Drinks

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Hundreds of people mysteriously disappear in Russia every day

day

30.10.2008

pravdareport.com

Hundreds of people mysteriously disappear in Russia every day

Several hundreds of people vanish in Russia every day. The number of those who disappeared without a trace during the recent several years has doubled and reached 120,000 people. Out-of-town visitors, entrepreneurs and lonely proprietors make the largest risk group at this point.

The sad statistics has been recently discussed with the participation of law-enforcement officers, lawyers and law-makers within the scope of a special conference in Moscow. Experts tried to analyze which measures could be taken to stop the unrestrained growth of mysterious disappearances, the Rossiiskaya Gazeta wrote.

The majority of the 120,000 people, who disappeared in Russia in 2007 alone, are men – nearly 59,000. About 38,000 of them are women, whereas teenage and underage children make 23,000 of the total number. Most of those people are found alive, although the process may take from several months to several years.

A precise legal definition of the term ‘missing’ can not be found in any normative document in Russia. The term usually indicates a human being, who unexpectedly disappeared under unclear circumstances and with no apparent reasons for it.

The only Moscow-based service, which collects the information about the found victims and dead bodies, is the Bureau of Registration of Accidents. The employees of the bureau say that people disappear most frequently during autumns and springs. Medics say that mental illnesses usually exacerbate during these two seasons.

Most harmless incidents occur when people decide to hide from their family conflicts or escape from their debts. A police officer told the story of a woman, who filed a report looking for her husband. The woman said that her husband simply left for work one day and never came back. The police found the man six months later: he moved to another region and was living with another woman. The man literally begged the police “not to find him.”

The statistics of the Internal Affairs Ministry says that most of the missing – 80 percent – are adults who depart from their homes in search of jobs. Many of them face hard reality and do not make any money at all. They eventually decide not to send home any news .

The ministry links the number of disappearances with migration and the unfavorable criminal situation in the country.

The number of missing people grows 12-15 percent every year. It is not just common workers who disappear without a trace. Police records say that not less than five high-ranking officials go missing every year along with about 200 military men and police officers.

About a fourth of those on the missing lists are people who make first steps on the way to homelessness. Such people may lose any connection with their relatives and friends. Others die under unclear circumstances or fall victims to unsolved crimes.

It is impossible to define the percentage of those who die as a result of their mysterious disappearances.

The police usually find up to 80 percent of missing adults and up to 90 percent of missing children. Children may often be kidnapped for panhandling or even sectarian activities. A sect with about 100 teenage members has recently been unmasked in the Siberian region of Russia. Nine of those teenagers were on wanted lists.

If a person goes missing in Russia, he or she will be sought after for 15 years, as the law stipulates. Afterwards, the person will be declared officially dead.

Up to 3,000 people disappear in Russia's every large city (with a million-strong population and more) every year. However, a joint database of those people does not exist, whereas the information about the missing is spread between the police, hospitals and morgues.

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He was 27 years old when this happened, now I'm 35 and still get chills thinking about it.

I took a week's vacation at my job and went to the beautiful Pontevedra (Galicia), with four other friends.

We were visiting their great views and two days later we decided to visit small towns around Pontevedra.

We were in Mondariz, a small town inhabited by farmers and sellers, very nice.

We arrived at night and decided to stay at the only hotel in town, located in the vicinity of a fairly extensive forest, Juan, one of my friends decided to leave the forest, but most refuse, really freaked us out in the middle of the night, and in Galicia where magic and enigmatic seizes every corner.

But about one in the morning again, John, we reiterated the same question, it was getting heavy, we could not sleep well, that made us aventurásemos unfortunately the forest.

After a journey of about a mile, we found a small cemetery, which was surrounded by a wrought iron gate with a front door. We went and saw only half open tombstones and graves, the cemetery seemed to be abandoned, at first we did not happen anything, but leave the graveyard saw a man run and run without stopping for a moment escondiésemos us told us that if we did, we would die, we started we laugh at him while he was lost in the darkness, and walking a few meters, we heard a sort of whispers, while focusing see a glow that was coming at the same time we hear about steps, steps people.

So if we scared, instinctively as if all we had stayed in accordance enter the cemetery again to hide. We did not want to look to see who it was, we were just quiet and felt like, we passed near a group of people and then as the steps were away. During the intense moments Sorry everyone a corrupt and a burnt smell.

When you no longer hear anything more we go out and later saw some footprints marked in moist soil, you could see perfectly well that had been a group of people and that his trail was going, right, in the direction where he had hidden that gentleman who was running.

Finally we left the forest, at about four in the morning to return to the hotel as soon as possible.

Upon entering there was an old man, nothing more was put ourselves to yell, asking for explanations of why we left the forest night. We told him what happened and he began to

pray. He said something like we were living miracle. We ask for explanations, it is an old legend of the mysterious lands of northern Spain, as we said, at night there are few brave souls who venture into the depths of the Galician forests and less at full moon, you can find the death and wandering like a lost soul if you meet her, with the Holy Company, if you go, you are given a bone on, as a torch and you join her to wander for the rest of eternity with her, no you can look, and if you dare to do so must draw a circle on the floor and stay inside until it goes long, before your eyes, and if you dare not look hide and pray, pray much for you not see . He also told us that the cemetery was there only for victims who died for the holy company, say they cursed and why is so hidden and secluded village. And the steps we hear ?, says old can be two things, the steps of the Holy Company or the souls that passed near us, or that the souls of the deceased ran fleeing from it.

We do not know what really happened that night, but we never knew anything about the gentleman who disappeared fleeing the darkness of that damn forest.

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Posted on July 23, 2012 by nzumel



NewImage

Balete tree. Image: Wikipedia

The only definition for “ingkanto” that I could ever get out my parents was “they’re like fairies”. According to the description given by Francisco Demetrio, they live in boulders, caves, holes in the ground, or in trees like the *balete* (a relative of the banyan tree) or the acacia. They are mischievous and capricious. On the one hand, there are traditions of them lending beautiful golden tableware for the weddings and fiestas of people in need; on the other hand, they can curse you and send diseases on you if you disrespect them (even accidentally), or if you don’t give proper greetings when you pass their homes. In the anecdotes that Demetrio collected, they are often described as fair-skinned, blonde and blue-eyed.

They also have a reputation for stalking people. The name Herminia Meñez gives to this phenomenon is “Inkganto Syndrome”, though I don’t know if the term originates with her or not.

Meñez identifies three distinct stages to the phenomenon. In the first stage, the victim is visited by invisible beings, who try to seduce him or her away with displays of wealth and power. This is manifested to others who may witness the victim having spells of stiffness and unconsciousness, disappearing for intervals of time without explanation, hanging from trees, or displaying other unusual behavior.

In the second stage, if the victim resists the spirits, they begin to abuse him physically and verbally. This manifests to witnesses as the victim becoming violent, and often extraordinarily strong. Often, family members have to tie the victim down to prevent him from “running away with the spirits”.

In the third stage, the victim’s family has brought the victim to a curer (a *mananambal*, for instance). Assuming the cure has been successful, the victim goes from wild and uncontrollable to “quiet and well-behaved”.

Demetrio describes the typical instance of the phenomenon similarly: “the disappearance of the victim and the seizure of madness usually accompanied by a show of extraordinary strength”.

In the traditional belief systems, the ingkanto syndrome can be brought about by any number of things. The victim might have accidentally violated the property of an ingkanto, for instance by destroying an anthill or mound that was their home, by building on an ingkanto’s land, or chopping down an ingkanto’s tree.

But there is another, more interesting folk hypothesis: the symptoms of madness were brought about because the victim was resisting their spiritual calling — namely, the call to be a shaman or healer. When the victim stops resisting and accepts the call, then the madness cures itself, and the victim becomes a more centered, thoughtful individual, one who is ready to serve the community through their spiritual or healing arts.

This relationship between psychological crisis (or “madness”) and shamanism is not unique to the Philippines. Demetrio notes that the “phenomenon of seizure or ‘an overpowering mental crisis’ ...is characteristic of shamanic call documented all over the world...”. He quotes Mircea Eliade, who wrote about the Buryat of Siberia in *Rite of Initiation*:

The souls of the shaman ancestors of a family choose a young man among their

descendants; he becomes absent-minded and moody, delights in solitude, has prophetic visions, and sometimes undergoes attacks that make him unconscious. During these times, the Buryat believe, the young man's soul is carried away by spirits; received into the palace of the gods, it is instructed by his shaman ancestors in the secret of the profession, the form and names of the gods, the worship and names of the spirits. It is only after this first initiation that the youth's soul returns and resumes control of his body.



P1010391

Photo: Nina Zumel

This idea, I think, carries on to other types of spiritual calling. Consider the prophet Isaiah, and the voices that called him in the desert (Isaiah 40:3-6). Or Joan of Arc. St. Teresa of Avila was subject to hallucinations, visual, auditory, and evidently tactile.

I saw in his hand a long spear of gold, and at the iron's point there seemed to be a little fire. He appeared to me to be thrusting it at times into my heart, and to pierce my very entrails; when he drew it out, he seemed to draw them out also, and to leave me all on fire with a great love of God.

— *The Life of St. Teresa of Jesus* (her autobiography)

Back to the ingkantos. Here is the story of an informant who was interviewed by Meñez in Aklan province (Visayas, Philippines).

This happened in Manila. I got home from work at six in the evening. I sat on a bench outside the house. A handsome young man passed by and greeted me. I did not know him. He said that he would see me later. At seven o'clock, while I was brushing my teeth, a pig appeared and asked me to go out with him. I asked the pig who it was and the pig replied that he was the man I had met earlier. "How did you turn into a pig?" I asked him. Then the pig became bigger and bigger and I saw the man instead. I screamed to my brothers that a pig was there to get me. "Are you getting crazy?" they said. They did not see anything. It must be my imagination, I thought. The man said that he would be back the following day.

The following day, as the young woman was having lunch, the man came again. He took her for a journey (against her wishes) on "something like a raft". He showed her London Bridge, and then took her to Cebu (a city 450 miles and several islands away from Manila).

We flew to his house. It was magnificent. There were many rooms. We went to a dining hall where I saw many creatures who looked like monsters. They were black and they had no—you know, this line above the upper lip [the philtrum]. They appeared hideous especially when they laughed and showed their teeth. They told me that I was now in their power, and their leader, an agta [a black ingkanto] told me that I had to marry his son. I insisted that I had not said yes to him, but he got enraged every time I answered back. They took me to a chamber where they beat me up and pinched me until I was black and blue. They showed me horror movies. Then they invited me to eat, but the rice wiggled. A child warned me not to eat it, or else I would never be able to return home. They got angry and dragged me around.

This went on for two months. The victim's brothers even took her to the National Mental Hospital (in Mandaluyong, Rizal), but doctors there said she was "not crazy". The woman's brothers told her that at noon every day she would talk to herself, saying that she was not going with "them" (the spirits), and then she would become stiff.

A week before I left Manila for Aklan, they kept coming back and were insistent that I join them. *They told me that I could become a curer if I wanted to. I told them that I did not want to leave my parents.* They continued to torture me. I was going to Mass at Saint Jude's, but they would not let me enter the church. My brother put a rosary around my neck, but I would not let him. I mean, they would remove it from my neck.

The emphasis in the above quote is mine. The victim moved away from Manila, to Aklan, and took employment as a household domestic. The *ingkanto* followed her there — "Little people came out [of a mound near her house] laughing and told me, 'You thought you escaped, but we are here.'"

The woman's mother called a healer, but to no avail. At the time of the interview, the woman admitted that her employer had heard her talking to the spirits, and that she (the victim) still lived in fear that the spirits would return.



P1010634

Photo: Nina Zumel

Compare this to the story of Bessie Dunlop, from Chapter 5 of *Letters on Demonology and Witchcraft*. I've reformatted it for legibility.

She was walking between her own house and the yard of Monkcastle, driving her cows to the common pasture, and making heavy moan with herself, weeping bitterly for her cow that was dead, her husband and child that were sick of the land-ill (some contagious sickness of the time), while she herself was in a very infirm state, having lately borne a child. On this occasion she

met Thome Reid [the name of the spirit that visited her] for the first time, who saluted her courteously, which she returned.

"Sancta Maria, Bessie!" said the apparition, "why must thou make such dole and weeping for any earthly thing?"

"Have I not reason for great sorrow," said she, "since our property is going to destruction, my husband is on the point of death, my baby will not live, and I am myself at a weak point? Have I not cause to have a sore heart?"

"Bessie," answered the spirit, "thou hast displeased God in asking something that thou should not, and I counsel you to amend your fault. I tell thee, thy child shall die ere thou get home; thy two sheep shall also die; but thy husband shall recover and be as well and feir as ever he was."

The good woman was something comforted to hear that her husband was be spared in such her general calamity, but was rather alarmed to see her ghostly counsellor pass from her a disappear through a hole in the garden wall, seemingly too narrow to admit of any living person passing through it.

Another time he met her at the Thorn of Dawmstarnik, and showed his ultimate purpose by offering her plenty of every thing if she would but deny Christendom and the faith she took at the font-stone. She answered, that rather than do that she would be torn at horses' heels, but that she would be conformable to his advice in less matters. He parted with her in some displeasure.

Shortly afterwards he appeared in her own house about noon, which was at the time occupied by her husband and three tailors. [Neither the tailors nor her husband noticed him.] ... so that, without attracting their observation, he led out goodwife to the end of the house near the kiln.

Here showed her a company of eight women and four men. The women were busked in their plaids, and very seemly. The strangers saluted her, and said, "Welcome, Bessie; wilt thou go with us?" But Bessie was silent, as Thome Reid had previously recommended. After this she saw their lips move, but did not understand what they said; and in a short time they removed from thence with a hideous ugly howling sound, like that of a hurricane. Thome Reid then acquainted her that these were the good wights (fairies) dwelling in the court of Elfland, who came to invite her to go thither with them.

Bessie refused the invitation, which displeased Thome Reid. But Bessie did agree to take Thome's advice on the healing arts. He visited her frequently, and she gained a reputation in the community for diagnosing the illnesses of people and animals, and for finding lost objects. She learned about the properties of herbs from Thome Reid; people came to her for healing medicines and ointments.

Unfortunately, Scotland in the sixteenth century was not a friendly time and place for a *mananambal* (for so she was); Bessie Dunlop was burned as a witch in 1576.

We might also include the story of Anne Rykhus and the *hulder* in this set of examples; it at least has a happier ending.

It's easy to see that folk psychology might explain schizophrenia-like symptoms as visitations by spirits; once that premise is accepted, it's not a large leap to believe that those spirits might give the visitants special gifts or insights. I'm not asserting that all healers, shamans, or those who have experienced a spiritual calling are schizophrenic or mentally ill; I am pointing out that the shaman and healer roles provide a constructive and community-positive outlet for those individuals who manifest these symptoms — and conversely, the cultural beliefs of these communities provide support for such individuals to remain high-functioning, and even (when it is schizophrenia) to recover, to some degree.

Some cultural differences are also apparent in the kind of delusions that occur in schizophrenia patients. Often, the delusions tend to reflect the predominant themes and values of a person's culture. For example, in Ireland, where religious piety is highly valued, patients with schizophrenia often have delusions of sainthood. In industrially advanced countries like America, patients' delusions tend to focus on sinister uses of technology and surveillance. Patients may report that they are being spied on by their televisions or that they are being X-rayed when they walk down the street. In Japan, a country that prizes honor and social conformity, delusions often revolve around slander or the fear of being humiliated publicly. In Nigeria, where mental illness is believed to be caused by evil spirits, delusions may take the form of witches or ancestral ghosts.

— From *The Secret Life of the Brain*, Episode 3

Thomas Stompe and his colleagues estimated that 15-30% of the symptomatology of schizophrenia and similar delusional disorders is culturally shaped. Other researchers point out that cultures with stigma-reducing explanations for delusional symptoms — like spirit visitation or "thinking too hard" — tend to have higher recovery rates.

As they said about Anne Rykhus: "no longer considered to be odd, but wise". And perhaps, in some cases, the belief engenders the reality.

More Reading:

- Encounters with Spirits: Mythology and the Inkganto Syndrome in the Philippines, Herminia Q. Meñez. Published in *Western Folklore*, 37:4, Oct 1978.

This is available online through JSTOR; you need access to a library or research institution that has a subscription. Meñez mentions some interesting examples where the healer was able to identify the source of the victim's underlying emotional stress, by the description of the ingkanto visiting her.

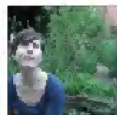
- The Engkanto Belief: An Essay in Interpretation, Francisco Demetrio. Published in *Asian Folklore Studies*, 28:1 (1969)

Also available through JSTOR.

- Update: Schizophrenia Across Cultures, Neely Lorenzo Myers. Published in *Current Psychiatry Reports*, June 2011.
- The pathoplastic effect of culture on psychotic symptoms in schizophrenia, Thomas Stompe, et.al. Published in *World Cultural Psychiatry Research Review*, Jul/Oct 2006.
- A story my mother told me. It's about *taong lipod*, not *ingkanto*, but it's the same idea.

This entry was posted in Folklore, Folktale, Ghost Stories, Superstition and tagged enkanto, folklore, ingkanto, JSTOR, Letters on Demonology and Witchcraft, Philippines, possession, psychology, schizophrenia, shamanism, superstitions. Bookmark the permalink.

4 thoughts on “Visits from Spirits: The Inkganto Syndrome”



1. schietree says:
on July 23, 2012 at 11:39 pm

I don't have anything further to add, just that this is utterly fascinating. Thank you.



• nzumel says:
on July 24, 2012 at 8:05 am

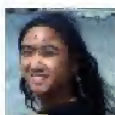
Glad you liked it :)



2. Tree Service Queens says:
on July 24, 2012 at 1:36 pm

I am... utterly speechless... Worth way more then the 5 minutes I spent reading, splendid writing and story telling. Your childhood sounds like quite a malevolent one.

-Carlos Hernandez



• nzumel says:
on July 24, 2012 at 1:48 pm

Thank you for stopping by, and for the kind words. :)

12/08/2014 by Michael Kleen7 Comments

The heart of the Corn Belt, Iowa is bordered by the Mississippi River to the east and the Missouri River to the west. It has the odd distinction of being both the safest state in the U.S. and the inspiration for a Slipknot album. The Hawkeye State, however, is also known for its share of haunted and legendary places, including the infamous Villisca Axe Murder House. But which are the most compelling? After much debate, Mysterious Heartland brings you Iowa's Top 10 Most Haunted Places!

10. Stony Hollow Road

Burlington, Iowa



Haunted_Midwest_Roads_7

The ghost of a heartbroken young woman is widely believed to haunt this road about eight miles north of Burlington, Iowa, near the Mississippi River. According to legend, a young woman named Lucinda was secretly engaged and planned to meet her lover on the bluffs outside of town so that they could elope. The man, however, never showed. Some say his buggy became stuck in the mud. Lucinda was so heartbroken that she threw herself off the cliff and onto the road below. In another version of the legend, she went home and heard rumors that her lover had run away with another woman, and that was why she killed herself. Either way, motorists have reported seeing her ghost on Stony Hollow Road for decades. Supposedly, if you go to the bluffs and say Lucinda's name three times, you will die the next day.

9. Hotel Blackhawk

Davenport, Iowa



Hotel_Blackhawk

Hotel Blackhawk, or the Blackhawk Hotel as it is also known, has gone from opulence to disrepair and back again several times over its storied existence. A businessman named W.F. Miller began construction on the Blackhawk in 1915, but all the floors were not added until 1920. It played host to many celebrities, and it is widely believed that actor Cary Grant died on the 8th floor in 1986 (in fact, he died at a nearby hospital). In the early 1970s, there were plans to turn the hotel into low income housing for the elderly, but it declared bankruptcy and the building was seized by the bank. During the 1990s, the hotel gained a sleazy reputation, and in 2006 a meth lab exploded on the 8th Floor. Since then, Hotel Blackhawk has undergone renovation and has been restored to its former glory. Still, stories of strange activity remain. The ghost of a woman in a blue or red evening gown has been seen floating through the hallways. Cary Grant himself is also said to make an appearance from the afterlife.

8. Cresco Theatre

Cresco, Iowa

The Cresco Opera House, as it was originally known, opened in 1915. It hosted many different kinds of performances, and even had a screen for motion pictures. Today, the theater continues this tradition by showing both movies and live performances. The building is long believed to be haunted by the ghosts of past thespians and their patrons. A lone figure that vanishes on approach has been seen sitting in the darkened theater. Ghosts dressed like vaudeville performers have been encountered around the stage, and voices and strange sounds have been heard when the theater is supposedly empty. Others have seen shadowy figures in the basement, and electrical disturbances have also been reported. With such an eclectic history, it is no wonder the Cresco Theatre is home to so many ghosts.

7. KD Station

Sioux City, Iowa

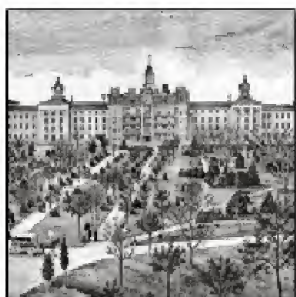


Creepiest_Midwest_Abandon

Located along the Floyd River, this imposing-but-dilapidated building was once the Swift and Company packing house, which opened in 1920. It served as a stockyard and slaughterhouse for over fifty years, until it closed in 1954. Several years earlier, in 1949, a leaking gas pipe caused an explosion in the packing house that killed 21 workers. The ghosts of these workers are believed to still haunt the building. In 1976, the building was converted into a shopping center and recreation area, but it is currently abandoned and undergoing demolition. Since 2004, several fires have damaged the structure. For a long time, many locals thought the building was haunted by a man named Paul Pulaski, and the building owner was not shy about advertising it. Strange sounds, often described as machinery, have been heard and the elevator reportedly moves on its own.

6. Independence State Hospital

Independence, Iowa



Independence_State_Hospite

Construction on Independence State Hospital began in 1873, but it did not open until 1883. The hospital has had many names over the years, including the Independence Lunatic Asylum. Like many asylums on its day, it was laid out on the Kirkbride Plan, which meant the building was laid out in a staggered-wing arrangement so that each wing received sunlight and fresh air. The most violent patients were housed furthest away from the central administrative offices. Independence State Hospital is still in use today, although some parts are abandoned. Visitors have reported feeling cold drafts, hearing whispers, and the feeling of being watched. Others have seen shadows and heard screams in the empty halls at night. Apparitions of former staff and patients are also seen in the buildings and on the grounds around the hospital.

5. Terror (Tara) Bridge

Webster County, Iowa



Haunted_Midwest_Bridges_1

This secluded rural bridge allows traffic to pass over a railroad that used to run past the town of Tara. Tara is long gone now, but strange tales remain. These stories date back to the 1800s, when a frustrated farmer cursed the winds and was struck down dead. Since that time, locals have reported being chased by a howling ghost rider. The area became known as Dead Man's Hollow. A large, hairy creature or wildman has also been reported under the bridge and in the nearby woods. More gruesome is the story of a woman who took her children to the bridge and waited for a train. As it passed, she tossed them onto the tracks one by one to be crushed to death. This accomplished, she jumped off the bridge and met her own fate. According to local legend, if you stop your car on the bridge and leave it unlocked, the woman's ghost will drag you out and throw you onto the tracks below.

4. Mathias Ham House

Dubuque, Iowa



Photo by Dirk Hansen.
<http://commons.wikimedia.org>

Currently a museum, this unique limestone Italian Villa-style mansion was built in 1856 by a Dubuque pioneer and businessman named Mathias Ham. It sits on a bluff overlooking the Mississippi River. At least four members of the Ham family died in the home. Mathias' wife, Margaret, died in 1874, and he joined her in 1889. His daughter May died in the 1890s, leaving his other daughter, Sarah, alone. According to legend, on one dark and lonely night Sarah shot and killed an intruder, whose lamplight is still said to wander through the house after sundown. Most of the strange occurrences revolve around lights turning on and off, and other electrical disturbances. Tour guides and volunteers report feeling the presence of other people—even hearing footsteps and voices—when they are alone.

3. Iowa State University

Ames, Iowa



Photo courtesy of Wikimedia

Founded in 1858 as Iowa State College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts, the college's name was changed to Iowa State University of Science and Technology in 1959. It is a large public university with a student population of over 33,000. While known for its degree programs in agriculture, engineering, and science, ISU is also home to less rational elements. Fisher Theater is said to be haunted by the ghost of Frederica Shattuck. Her contributions to the theater department led to Shattuck Theater being named after her. Shattuck Theater was later torn down, and according to Cynthia Thuma and

Catherine Lower's book *Creepy Colleges and Haunted Universities*, Shattuck's ghost moved to Fisher Theater. Students hear disembodied voices, and a wheelchair that belonged to Shattuck reportedly moves on its own.

The Farm House Museum is supposed to be haunted by the ghosts of two sisters, while low moans are heard in Gold Star Hall. Gold Star Hall memorializes ISU students who died in service. One woman, Hortense Elizabeth Wind, became a Red Cross nurse in WW1. Now, staff say her ghost is the origin of strange sounds in the memorial.

2. Oakland Cemetery

Iowa City, Iowa



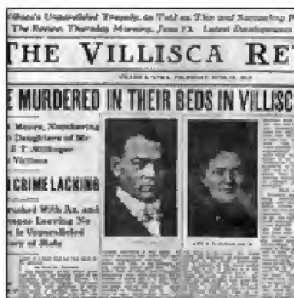
Haunted_Midwest_Cemeterie

A blackened, bronze statue of an angel, its arms outstretched and head bowed, is the focus of much curiosity among visitors to Oakland Cemetery. The cemetery was established in 1843 and sits along Brown Street and Highway 1 in Iowa City. The angel statue was designed by a Bohemian artist and erected in 1912 to commemorate Nicholas and Eddie Feldevert. Hundreds of people come every year to see the "Black Angel," and there are many explanations for why it has changed color. Many believe that Teresa Feldevert was interested in the dark arts, and her interest corrupted the statue.

Anyone who is brave enough to kiss the angel, it is said, will die instantly. Others believe (incorrectly) that a man erected the statue in honor of his wife. His wife's infidelity, however, left a permanent stain on the statue as a reminder of her sin. According to legend, anyone who touches the "Black Angel" will suffer a horrible fate. One young man tried to remove its hand with a hacksaw and went insane. Later, his body turned up in the Chicago River. The statue is said to turn a shade darker every Halloween.

1. Villisca Ax Murder House

Villisca, Iowa



Creepiest_Midwest_Abandon

On the night of June 9, 1912, Josiah and Sarah Moore, their children Herman, Katherine, Boyd, and Paul, and their children's friends Lena and Ina Stillinger, were brutally murdered while they slept by an unknown assailant with an ax. The killer was never officially found, although a traveling preacher named George Kelly was tried and acquitted of the crime. Today, no one lives at the home, but the most recent owner opened it up for tours and paranormal investigations.

Dozens, if not hundreds, of eyewitnesses have reported strange encounters in the "murder house." Vanishing blood stains on the walls, feelings of an evil presence, strange green lights, cold chills, the feeling of being pushed or pulled by unseen hands, and even apparitions have all been experienced here. Ghostly voices, presumably of the Moore Children, have been recorded on several occasions.

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1. Melanie Quinn Stockdale says:
12/14/2014 at 4:49 pm

Managed The Cresco Theatre in the 80's. Alot of weird stuff that I witnessed!

2. Brandon Diehl says:
04/11/2015 at 11:25 pm

I live in Southeast Iowa, Burlington. The gravel "Stony Hollow Rd." is HAUNTED and creepy in the day, as two bluffs tower over you. on each side .with deep carved out creek's on either side.traveling windy curved limestone bluffs,it is very small 2 miles off of HWY 99 N going towards Oakville, Iowa- turn left at Stony Hollow rd. sign I used to go there back in high school days 87' -89' to . park, drink beer, and target practice.IT IS definitely haunted.

3. Pete Sikes says:
04/19/2015 at 12:07 pm

Elizabeth Hortense Wind was not a nurse in WWI, she was Chief Dietician at the US Navy Hospital in Portsmouth, VA.

http://www.mu.iastate.edu/en/about_the_mu/traditions_myths__stories/#ghost

4. filbert mohico says:
06/30/2015 at 8:51 pm

you totally left out the kate shelley bridge in boone iowa. its an easy #2 to the axe murder house which i have yet to spend a night in but will.

• Michael Kleen says:
07/01/2015 at 5:31 am

It must not have been scary enough to make the list

• iowa guy says:
09/18/2015 at 5:05 pm

That's probably because the Kate Shelly bridge isn't really the bridge from back in the day, it was originally south west of boone by moingona

5. kristi says:
10/20/2015 at 4:24 pm

My uncle lived on stoney hollow road I travelled it often. Although it is a bit scary at night

I never same anything out of the ordinary

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/* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50%
!important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important;
border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }
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Jack Yufe dies at 82; he was raised Jewish, his identical twin as a Nazi

2015-11-11

latimes.com



Jack Yufe, left, and his identical twin brother, Oskar.



Elaine Woo

It sounded like a tabloid headline: Identical twins separated after birth. One grew up Jewish, the other a Nazi.

But the story of Jack Yufe and his brother was not just about

their stark differences.

After decades and oceans apart, the men came together as adults to learn they dressed alike, walked alike, and had the same hot temper and quirks, including a fondness for scaring others with an explosively loud sneeze.

They both read books from back to front, loved butter and spicy food and flushed the toilet before they used it.

"They were a great example of how twins, despite different environments, ended up being very much alike," said Cal State Fullerton psychology professor Nancy Segal, who studied the brothers as part of a well-known Minnesota research project on separated twins.

Yufe, a San Ysidro businessman, died Monday in a San Diego hospital from stomach cancer, his family said. He was 82.

They were repelled and fascinated by each other. They could not let go of the twinship - Nancy Segal, California State University, Fullerton psychology professor

Of 137 pairs of separated twins in the two-decade University of Minnesota study, 56 were fraternal and 81 were identical. Yufe and his brother, Oskar Stohr, stood out because of their dramatically dissimilar backgrounds.

Born in Port of Spain, Trinidad, on Jan. 16, 1933, they were 6 months old when their parents split up.

Oskar went to Germany with his Catholic mother, Elizabeth, and grew up as the Nazis rose to power. Like his fellow students, he greeted the school principal with "Heil, Hitler," and was warned by his grandmother to never let on that his father, Joseph, was Jewish. As an act of

survival, Oskar joined the Hitler Youth movement.

Years later, he confessed that he had dreamed that he shot down his twin in an aerial dogfight. Jack had a similar nightmare about killing Oskar with a bayonet.

For Jack, however, the war was a distant threat, experienced mainly through newsreels he saw growing up in Trinidad with their father. His childhood was difficult in other ways.

“As a white, red-headed boy in a predominantly black and Indian culture, he stood out a lot and was beat up a lot,” said his son, Kenneth. “He was constantly having to prove himself.” Luckily, he was highly competitive and excelled athletically.

Jack knew he was Jewish but didn’t feel the weight of that identity until he was 15 and was sent to Venezuela to live with an aunt who had been in Dachau and was the only European relative on his father’s side to survive the Holocaust.

She urged Jack to move to Israel and his father agreed that it would be good for him. Jack reluctantly emigrated at 16 and served a stint in the Israeli navy.

In 1954, before heading to the United States where his father had settled, he decided to stop in Germany to look up his brother. They were 21 when they met for the first time as adults.

The reunion did not go well. Because of the language barrier, “there was a lot of smiling but not much to say,” Yufe recalled in *The Times* in 1979. He also remembered that his brother, worried about anti-Semitic family members, insisted he not mention his Jewish heritage and hid the luggage tags that showed Yufe had been in Israel.

But there was something more upsetting than their differences.



Separated near birth

Separated near birth and raised in different worlds, Jack and Oskar discovered they shared remarkably similarities when they reunited for a study on identical twins.

When they met at the train station, Jack and Oskar were chagrined to find that not only

did they have the same neat mustaches and receding hairlines, they were wearing similar wire-rimmed glasses and matching, light-colored sports jackets.

“We had identical clothes. I got mine in Israel and he got his in Germany. Exactly the same color, with two buttons,” Yufe recalled in a 1999 BBC documentary. “I said, ‘Oskar, you are wearing the same shirt and same glasses. Why?’ He said to me, ‘Why are you wearing same

thing that I am?’

“We didn’t like the fact we looked so identical.”

They went 25 years without seeing each other again.

In early 1979, Yufe’s then-wife, Ona, showed him a magazine article about the “Jim Twins,” a pair of long-separated Ohio twins who were each named Jim by their respective adoptive parents. Like Yufe and his brother, Jim Springer and Jim Lewis found each other as adults and were astounded by the parallels in their lives, including similar jobs in law enforcement and ex-wives with the same first name.

The two Jims had become the first subjects of the Minnesota twins study. Yufe was intrigued and thought he and Oskar should also participate.

“I thought it perhaps would be a good idea...to meet in neutral territory to hash out all this, all the hidden feelings,” he recalled in an interview with The Times in 1979.

The researchers jumped at the chance and invited them to Minnesota for a week. Yufe and Stohr became the seventh set of twins to enter the study.

“Jack and his brother clearly have the greatest differences in background I’ve ever seen among identical twins reared apart,” Thomas J. Bouchard Jr., the University of Minnesota psychologist who headed the study, told The Times in 1979.

Bouchard found that, despite their radically opposite upbringings, they were strikingly similar in temperament, rate of speech and other characteristics.

“I always thought I picked up my nervous habits from my father – like fidgeting with other people’s rubber bands and pads and paper clips—until I saw [Oskar],” Yufe said in The Times. “He’s the same way.”

Although the brothers got to know one another much better through the study and subsequent visits, their relationship never lost its prickly edge. Oskar had the same competitive nature, and the rivalry between them “was just nonstop,” Kenneth Yufe said Tuesday, recalling the time the two men even battled to see who had the best technique for cleaning a dirty car window.

“They had an extraordinary love-hate relationship,” said Segal, who wrote about the brothers in her 2005 book “Indivisible by Two: Lives of Extraordinary Twins.”

“They were repelled and fascinated by each other. They could not let go of the twinship,” she said.

Stohr, who spent many years working in mines, died from lung cancer in 1997. Yufe did not attend the funeral, in part because he worried that he would only be a painful reminder of his twin’s death.

In San Ysidro, Yufe built a successful business selling blue jeans and work boots to farmworkers from the back of his van. He eventually opened a store, El Progreso, and went to work every day until he was 80.

He and his brother were included in a number of films about twins, including a 1999 German documentary, "Oskar and Jack."

Yufe, whose first marriage ended in divorce, is survived by his wife, Ruth; their children, Kenneth and Ani; two children from his first marriage, Hobi Reader and Devra Gregory; two stepsons, Renee and Enrique Vega; sisters Natasha and Sonja; a half-brother, Peter; and four grandchildren.

Segal once asked Yufe if he loved his brother. Noting that they spent no more than a month together as adults, he replied: "Love each other? We don't even know if we liked each other."

What he did know was that he could not blame his brother for the circumstances that put them on opposite sides of World War II.

"Children have no say in what they are taught," he told Segal. "If we had been switched, I would have taken Oskar's place for sure.

"It doesn't bother me, but I'm glad I was not on the other side."

Updated

Nov. 11, 7:06 p.m.: This story has been updated with additional information about Jack Yufe's survivors.



I was taking a 11 August 1956 and José Antonio , a boy of only eight years old, lived in the barracks " Cabo Pantoja "the Peruvian Army, Department of Loreto , border with Ecuador, a very unknown place, lost in our Amazon . To be located, is where, according to the map, Peru at the top end in "tip". There lived the small José Antonio with his father a doctor assimilated as Commander of the Army Medical his mother and siblings.

Despite the precarious amenities headquarters was a happy in the jungle boy. But suddenly face to face with one of the strangest mysteries of the Peruvian jungle would look.

Every day the boy had to walk, accompanied by other classmates, the only school in the area, distant 8 km. One afternoon, because they had disapproved in a course, punished him by sending him to bed early. Serian eight in the evening.

José Antonio had been sobbing long time and trying at once to sleep. Suddenly he heard outside his hut, someone imitating his childish whining. The, disforzado, began to mourn harder. And with more strength out what mimicked.

Suddenly the boy heard something on the roof of great weight rested, making a mighty roar. Soon, a soldier surnamed Panduro, who was acting as a buffer, approached alarmed the cabin and José Antonio heard him ask if everything was ok, to which his parents told him that if that was no problem. Soon a scandal, and a man shouting was heard desperate. All the people came out of their houses and just the child's home, another soldier fired into a kind of large dark bird amid the shadows attacked Panduro, and most surprising was apparently trying to take it ... !, Amid the noisy crowd, the animal, dragged the soldier for about 30 or 40 meters. With shooting the thing that took flight and disappeared amid the screaming, into the night.

All immediately approached the battered soldier, who had remained silent and motionless. Providentially had not suffered major physical damage, except a deep scratches on the body and arms. After a long while, Panduro slowly regained his spirits. That's where horrified told that the animal was not a bird. Until then, everyone thought it was a condor or something, but that explanation was inadequate, given that he had never heard story of condors steals-men and less for those Amazonian corners. But no. What he told the soldier Panduro, with a gesture of terror, was that what moments before had attacked was not human. It was a huge bird with the head ... a horrible woman. And with its claws, had held strong neck.

It was the Japiñuñu .Then during his stay for those dollars, would know that it would not be

but one of many encounters many natives in the area had since time immemorial. So many stories pointing out fantastic being, and even had a name. It was then the Japiñuñu .

It is interesting to remember how this being, mythical character, has been described and seen in other parts of the world. Even in the Greek mythology and literature has discussed these beings who will be remembered, besieged the legendary hero Jason in his quest for the Golden Fleece and are also mentioned in Homer's Odyssey. But there are other name. They are known as harpies .

Us recall even as they are referred to as characters that were part of the history of the founding of theTahuantinsuyo . Or do not remember one of the Ayar Brothers become a huge bird with human head? But beyond myths and legends, what was it that attacked the soldier Panduro that fateful night of August 11, 1956 ?, was real? Or the shadows of terror made him see the conscript, what his Andean world, full of supays and saqras, could only give you? Only for those who have seen or have outlived their attack, Japiñuñu is so real ... as the most authentic of his nightmares.

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Jesus Christ and an Egg from Leeds - Beachcombing's Bizarre History Blog

strangehistory.net

Author: Beach Combing | in : Modern , [trackback](#)

Beachcombing has recently become curious about a passage in Charles Mackay's *Extraordinary Popular Delusions and the Madness of Crowds* (160).

'A panic terror of the end of the world seized the good people of Leeds and its neighbourhood in the year 1806. It arose from the following circumstances. A hen, in a village close by, laid eggs, on which were inscribed the words, 'Christ is coming'. Great numbers visited the spot, and examined these wondrous eggs, convinced that the day of judgment was near at hand. Like sailors in a storm, expecting every instant to go to the bottom, the believers suddenly became religious, prayed violently, and flattered themselves that they repented them of their evil courses. But a plain tale soon put them down, and quenched their religion entirely. Some gentlemen, hearing of the matter, went one fine morning, and caught the poor hen in the act of laying one of her miraculous eggs. They soon ascertained beyond doubt that the egg had been inscribed with some corrosive ink, and cruelly forced up again into the bird's body. At this explanation, those who had prayed, now laughed, and the world wagged as merrily as of yore.'

Beachcombing wondered though whether this ever really happened – Mackay is generally more interested in demonstrating the madness of crowds than actually giving good, stand-up sources. Alarm bells particularly went off when going through contemporary Leeds newspapers he could find nothing that approximated to this story.

However, he did find a reference in the *Leeds Mercury* Jan 30 1890 that he includes here as a footnote to Mackay's immortal work. A reader had written in and is discussing one Mary Bateman – his source appears to be *The Annals of Leeds, York and Surrounding District* (1865), a text that Beachcombing has not, damnation, been able to examine.

'[Mary Bateman] was a Leeds sibyl and lived in Camp Field... The first mention of her occurs in a passage under... January, 1806, stating – "This month the credulous of Leeds were much alarmed by a cunning prophetess (Mary Bateman), who displayed a hen's egg, inscribed 'Christ is Coming' and their fear was still more awakened by George Hey, the Kirkstall prognosticator, who advertised in the most solemn manner that he was 'commissioned by heaven to announce that on Whit-Monday, in the year 1806, the world would be destroyed by torrents of fire'".

No more information is given here but Mary Bateman was executed March 20 1809 for poisoning. When she was dissected three pence was asked of all the crowd that had turned up to see her and thirty pounds was raised for the General Infirmary...

Working backwards using 'Mary Bateman' Beachcombing found a brief reference in the

Leeds Mercury for 22 Oct 1808: 'It is worthy of observation that Mary Bateman is the person whose hen laid an egg about two years ago, at the bank in this town [?!], bearing this marvellous inscription, 'Christ is coming'.

One egg then?

Beachcombing can add that her body can be seen at the Thackray Museum in Leeds to this day and hopes soon to visit Mary.

This is the closest equivalent that Beachcombing knows from the Christian tradition to the wild press reports that sometimes race across the Arab world when the word 'God' is found on the inside of a watermelon. **Christians don't seem to do miraculous writing: or do they?** drbeachcombing AT yahoo DOT com

Beachcombing can't resist by closing with a recent Sicilian recipe he stumbled on that requires a whole chicken 'preferably with an unlaidd egg'.

18 March 2011: Sanday writes in to say that there are various books on Mary Bateman (all of which seem to be incredibly expensive): could anyone see to getting Beach access at a reasonable price? Note the criminal spelling mistake that should have got the copyeditor hung drawn and quartered. Thanks Sanday!!

HISTORY OF MARY BATEMAN
EIGHTH EDITION!

Seven thousand copies of this book have been sold in two months, and the work has come to an eighth edition. It is not perhaps an exaggeration to suppose, that every copy has been read or heard by six persons, so that upwards of 40,000 individuals have partaken of the entertainment and instruction afforded by this pamphlet, decided the most popular that has for many years issued from the press.

THIS DAY IS PUBLISHED, Price 1s.
WITH A STRIKING LIKENESS,
THE HISTORY OF MARY BATEMAN, the
YORKSHIRE WIDOW, containing a Narrative of her Life, with the Particulars of her Trial and Behaviour in Prison, before and after Condemnation.—(Eighth Edition.)

Sold by the Booksellers.
Leeds Mercury Office, May 12, 1809.
Mary Bateman book

HISTORY OF MARY BATEMAN
SEVENTH EDITION.

One leading Object in the undertaking of this History, was to explode the pernicious Arts of Fortune-Tellers; and if the effect on the public Mind, be at all commensurate with the extent of the Circulation, the Editor is not without hopes, that his Design is in some tolerable Degree effected, in Yorkshire, to which County the rapidity of the Demand has hitherto confined its Influence. Abstract Reasonings, and Moral Reflections, he is well aware are not of themselves, the Weapons by which the prejudices of Mankind are to be combated, and in this Publication they are assisted incidentally, by a Narrative of Curious Facts, and by the development of one of the most extraordinary Characters, this or any other County ever produced. In this way, the Arcana of the Art is laid Open, and those who sit down to read for Entertainment rise with a perfect Conviction, if they were not before convinced of the Follacy of all human Pretensions, to pry into the future Designs of an intervisible Providence.

THIS DAY IS PUBLISHED, Price 1s.
WITH A STRIKING LIKENESS,
THE HISTORY OF MARY BATEMAN, the
YORKSHIRE WIDOW, containing a Narrative of her Life, with the Particulars of her Trial and Behaviour in Prison, before and after Condemnation.—(Seventh Edition.)

Sold by the Booksellers.
Leeds Mercury Office, May 4, 1809.
Mary Bateman book 2

20 March 2011: First an email from Roy S who reminds Beachcombing that the Judeo-Christian tradition does do mysterious writing in as much as in Daniel 5 has God write words on the wall with his finger. This set off vague bells about Christ writing something in the gospels (in the sand?) but Beachcombing

couldn't find it and, in any case, that is a different question. Invisible, meanwhile, has written in with the following considerations: 'I speculate that Christians have less religious dermography [skin writing] (not sure if that term can be applied to holy aubergines or watermelons) than Muslims because Christianity offers a wider choice of miracles than Islam, which has no miraculous statues, weeping icons, or holy apparitions and must make do with its tradition of calligraphy.' This Beachcombing suspects is a key observation. Could it also be that Arabic is better suited to 'miraculous' swirls in nature than the clunky western alphabets? In any case, Invisible continues quoting from *The Encyclopaedia of Psychic Science* by Nandor Fodor 'DERMOGRAPHY, skin writing; a phenomenon of the stigmatic

class, with one essential difference: the real stigmatic writings last for months, years or throughout a lifetime, whereas skin writing disappears in a few minutes or in a few hours at the most. For that very reason the possibilities of fraud in skinwriting are wide. Given the sensitive skin of neuropsychopaths writing may appear in a few minutes after the letters are directly traced by any blunt instrument or the nails. As a preliminary to skin-writing demonstrations many mediums burn up the pellet on which a name or question is written and rub their arm or forehead with the ashes. The rubbing process may give a good opportunity for covertly tracing the intended message. In at least one case on record this tracing was done telekinetically. Manuel Eyre testified before the London Dialectical Committee of his experience with Mrs. Seymour at Waukegan, near Chicago, as follows: 'In trance she would hold out one arm, and with the forefinger of the other hand make a rapid motion as if writing, the movement of the finger being in the air about a foot from the arm; a few minutes after she stripped off her sleeve, and there on her arm, so distinctly written that it could be read across the room, was the peculiar signature of the spirit giving the communication.' According to the American Spiritual Telegraph the writing on Mrs. Seymour's arm appeared in raised letters and could both be seen and felt distinctly for fifteen or twenty minutes. Gradually it faded away, leaving the skin natural, smooth and uncolored. Mrs. Seymour appeared several times before an investigating committee of Milwaukee but the committee could find no explanation and broke up without making a report. In the case of Miss Coggsell of Vermont the writing appeared on her arms and forehead in answer to mental questions. The part which suggestion may play in such demonstrations was shown recently (1933) at the Institut Metapsychique of Paris, where Mme. Olga Kahl produced on her skin a mentally communicated word or image. Hysterical patients may further complicate the problem. Kraft-Ebing records that the writing traced on the anaesthetic right side of d'Illma S. appeared reversed on the left side. Thomas Killigrew testified to the appearance of the names of St. Joseph and the Virgin upon the hands of the Prioress of the Ursuline nuns at Loudon in France, about the year 1635 in the following way: 'I saw her hand, white as my hand, in an instant change color all along the vein and become red and all of a sudden a word distinctly appeared, and the word was Joseph.' During the religious revival in Northern Ireland writing on the skin was of common occurrence. In the case of mediums the demonstration is always of doubtful value, unless the moral reputation of the psychic is high. Such is the case of Stainton Moses on whose arm on October 12, 1873, the following names appeared: Emperor, Mentor, Solon and Plato. Solon's name was impressed with a capital Sigma. Charles H. Foster, the 'Salem Seer' gave abundant demonstrations of the phenomenon. Before the Dialectical Society Edward Laman Blanchard told the story of how the name of his father appeared in red letters on the arm of the medium and immediately afterwards, in answer to a question, the numbers 24 on the palm of his hand, indicating the number of years since his death. The phenomenon was very rapid, the letters and numbers disappearing in the sight of those present without the arm of the medium being withdrawn. Dr. Ashburner examined Foster's skin-letters under a powerful magnifying glass. He observed clearly that they were in relief and that the coloring matter was under the skin. The color disappeared after two or three minutes. Foster's biographer, George C. Bartlett, describes an amusing incident. A certain Mr. Adams came to consult Foster. He saw the room filled with spirits in his presence. About two o'clock the next morning he woke up, complained to Bartlett that he could not sleep as the room was still filled with the Adams family. They were writing their

names all over him. To his astonishment Bartlett counted eleven distinct names, one written across Foster's forehead, others on his arms, and several on his back. Sometimes the writing is pictographic. A case was reported in the *American Spiritual Telegraph* of the appearance of a clearly-defined human heart with a wound, as if made by a bullet, on Miss Coggsell's arm in answer to the desire of a sitter that his friend who died shot in the heart should manifest. A still more graphic phenomenon was exhibited in New England by the servant girl of Mr. Lewis Burtis. In the presence of a colored editor, as narrated by Emma Hardinge in *Modern American Spiritualism*, red lines had formed 'into a distinct and beautifully-represented picture of a kneeling man, with a woolly head and African cast of features, a chain round his waist terminating in two balls, which were ingeniously fitted into the veins at the end of the arm, whilst above the whole was written in fine character the words: 'A poor old slave'. The girl in question was nearly illiterate. Messages frequently appeared on her arm while she was at her household work and would disappear after having been read by her master and mistress. Of the mechanism of skin-writing we know nothing. Conan Doyle suggested that concentration by an invisible entity may have a similar effect upon the medium as the self-concentration of religious ecstasies.' Thanks to Roy and Invisible!

25 Oct 2011: Over the last months Southern Man, Invisible and Leeds Laura have all written in to report that Mary Bateman's history is set out in S. Baring Gould's *Yorkshire Oddities*. We've only just got down to reading the chapter and from this it is clear that MB was a singularly unpleasant con lady. E.g. *'Mary Bateman next became acquainted with a tradesman's wife of the name of Cooper. She persuaded this woman that her husband was about to abscond, and take with him all the property he could raise, and that she might not be left quite destitute, Mary prevailed upon her to convey as much of the furniture as she could out of the house, including an excellent clock, and to lodge all this furniture at Bateman's. There it did not remain long. Mary took it all to the pawnbroker's, got for it what it would fetch, and left the abused husband and his credulous wife to redeem it at their leisure.'* But as to those famous eggs, SBG gives us a little more information: *'Blown upon as the credit of Mrs. Bateman' witchcraft then was, she removed from Timble Bridge to the Black Dog Yard, at the Bank. While she lived here one of her hens laid a wonderful egg, remarkable for bearing this inscription— 'Christ is coming'. But as so singular a phenomenon was not likely to obtain all the credit necessary for carrying into effect her fraudulent intentions unless supported by some kind of proof, she had the ingenuity and cruelty to contrive that two other eggs, bearing similar inscriptions, should be deposited in the nest by the same unfortunate hen. Persons flocked from all quarters to see the wonderful eggs, and they who dared to disbelieve stood a good chance of being maltreated by the credulous multitude. Mary's motive for producing those eggs is not well made out, but it is supposed that she had at that time a notion of following the example of Joanna Southcote, as she was then in the habit of attending the meetings of the sect founded by that extraordinary woman. Mary succeeded in realising no inconsiderable sum by means of these eggs, for she made those who came to see the miracle pay a penny each for the gratification of their curiosity.'* Thanks Invisible, Leeds Laura and Southern Man!

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Skull no. 2,
photograph B, 1935



Skull no. 2, photograph B, 1935

Investigators photographed the Skull No. 2 in the same orientation as an existing photograph of Mrs. Ruxton. Then they laid a photo-transparency of this skull over the portrait to establish that the skull was Mrs. Ruxton's.

University of Glasgow

Image 1 of 10

The Buck Ruxton "Jigsaw Murders" case

On September 14, 1935, Buck Ruxton, an Indian-born physician who lived in Lancashire, near the English-Scottish border, murdered his wife Isabella and her maid Mary Rogerson, and then mutilated their bodies and scattered the parts, in an effort to make them unidentifiable.

After a passerby discovered some remains under a bridge in Scotland, a team of forensic experts was assembled. Using an array of scientific methods, the experts identified the victims and unmasked the perpetrator. The painstaking reconstruction of the bodies of Isabella Ruxton and Mary Rogerson by forensic pathologist John Glaister Jr. and anatomist James Couper Brash—and pioneering use of photographic superimpositions—was the key evidence that led to Dr. Ruxton's conviction and execution. The success of the methods used in the Ruxton case, which was widely reported in the press, led to increased public and professional trust in the capabilities of forensic science. Dr. Ruxton's trial, which took place in March 1936, lasted 11 days. He was found guilty and sentenced to be hanged to death. Before his execution, he admitted his guilt.

, , , U.S. National Library of Medicine, 8600 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, MD 20894 , ,

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Japanese folklore is known to be countless stories about elves, ghosts and all sorts of creatures that are beyond human imagination itself. While many of these strange beings are considered to form part of the realm of myth, occasionally there is one that extends from the border of the real and the unreal. In such cases, the line between folklore and reality is blurred, making it difficult to fully determine where one ends and the other begins.

In some cases, the child may appear to be a simple invention, and still have persistently been sighted and documented to the point that I should be investigated. This is the case of dogs with human face Japan.

The, Jinmenken, which could be translated something like "the dog with a human face", usually said to be about the size of a medium sized dog, often with matted or dirty hair. From a distance, anyone can be confused with a simple mangy mutt, but when you look more closely you are terrified to see that these dogs have a human face. The eyes are often profound and sad, and the tail between the legs are in an apparent gesture of passivity or cowardice. A more shocking revelation is that the human face has a supposed ability to speak.



Throughout the Edo period (1603-1868) period, these dogs-humans were seen by the local population, to the point that occasionally seen in news publications of the time. In addition to sightings, the Jinmenken were exposed in the "misemono" which were a kind of Japanese popular fair during the Edo period. These side events were like a curio cabinet,

usually with exotic zoo animals, mummified strange creatures or monsters, mystical artifacts remains, and all kinds of strange and bizarre objects.

According to historical record, in this kind of trade showed some taxidermy Jinmenken and sometimes even came to show live specimens. In these "shows" the Jinmenken walked on the gaze and became very popular attractions. It is not clear whether it was real or altered dogs Jinmenken so to deceive, but the fact is there are numerous accounts of these exposures and were definitely observed by many people.

And not only commoners were astonished to see these creatures. A publication of the time included the testimony of a zoologist, who detailed his experience with one of these creatures:



"There it was, shrugged and whimpering in the corner of the display booth. He was hunched over himself, with a very strong odor. Then he looked at me with sad eyes and I could clearly see it was the face of a human being, but blankly, without a soul. Immediately assumed it was a hoax to see such an aberration, however, if one had made a horrible spectacle then had done with so much ingenuity and craftsmanship that I could see him as such. If it was some sort of macabre taxidermy of a living being,

there was no proof. I could see that there was no apparent suture points or artificial connection between the human face and the dog. I was anxious to see him but that abomination and his eyes left me with a deep malaise long after seeing it. "

Interestingly, the feeling of discomfort of an experienced zoologist. Premonitions of fear or feelings of deep despair are common occurrences in all claimed to have seen a Jinmenken. There are also reports that tell the capacity of a Jinmenken to mesmerize viewers. Additionally, jinkenmen are considered harbingers of doom or disaster.

Jinmenken sightings today

But apart from Jinmenken sightings in Japan in the Edo period, the statements of witnesses Jinmenken sightings persist until today. There are many reports of witnesses who described seeing them approach a strange dog, only to realize that it has a human face. Other reports indicate large apparent speed of Jinmenken, running alongside the car in the darkest roads, sometimes crying or screaming. These sightings occur mainly at night in rural areas, however, is not always the case.



During
the

1980s, several witnesses said they had seen a dog with a human face scavenging on the streets of Shibuya Ward in Tokyo, which is a well developed urban shopping area. Other

sightings have been recorded in other urban areas crowded behind, in alleys, or in dark parking lots of apartment buildings restaurants.

Theories Jinmenken

There are many theories as to what might be behind the sightings and stories related Jinmenken. Some suggest that the Jinmenken are the spirits of the victims of traffic accidents or possessed by evil spirits dogs. Others say they are the result of biological experiments conducted in secret laboratories. It has even been suggested that these dogs-humans are the Chupacabras Japan.

Even the most skeptical believe that the stories of dog-human in Japan has its origin in Japanese macaques. These primates are found throughout Japan and in many ways they could look like a dog in less favorable conditions for their sighting, as it is at night when most sightings occur. They have faces that could be seen as similar to human, and make a variety of vocalizations that could possibly be misinterpreted as human.

Now, a zoologist might confuse a monkey with one of these creatures? Real or imagined, whatever the origin of Jinmenken seem to be something that has gone beyond the confines of mere myth or folklore. Maybe somewhere there is an explanation or an answer to these enigmatic creatures. Until then, if you ever come across a Jinmenken in Japan, be sure to keep your eyes open in the dark alleys. You never know what you may be waiting in the shadows.

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Saturday, June 5, 2010

Jubilee Jim



"Jubilee" Jim Fisk was the consummate Gilded Age robber baron. Together with his partner Jay Gould, Fisk managed to wrest the Erie Railroad from Cornelius Vanderbilt, and by attempting to corner the gold market triggered the 1869 financial panic known as "Black Friday." But unlike his dour partner, Jim Fisk lived a personal life as large and extravagant as his business dealings. Everything he had or did had to be the biggest and best, so when he cheated on his wife it was with the most beautiful woman in America. When that relationship turned scandalous, it was an epic scandal filled with blackmail, courtroom drama, and finally murder.

Date: January 6, 1872

Location: New York, New York

Victim: "Jubilee" Jim Fisk

Cause of Death: Gunshot

Accused: Edward S. Stokes

Recording:

"Jim Fisk (aka The Stokes Verdict)" - June Lazare

Synopsis:

The life of James Fisk, Jr. is a true American success story. He was born in a small Vermont town in 1835 and quit school at twelve to assist his father as a travelling peddler, selling housewares and notions. At fifteen he left that occupation to join Van Amberg's Mammoth Circus and Menagerie. At 18 he left the circus and applied his showmanship to the peddling business and by age 21 he was running five wagons throughout New England. He made his first fortune working for Jordan Marsh, providing textiles to the army during the Civil War. Then he discovered the stock market.



He learned the tricks of the trade from Daniel Drew who was a master at manipulating stock prices. Fisk teamed up with Drew and Jay Gould for the "Erie War" - a fight to keep Cornelius Vanderbilt from gaining control of the Erie Railroad. Fisk and his partners won by continually issuing fraudulent Erie stock, unbeknownst to Vanderbilt, until Vanderbilt finally conceded. The Erie Railroad became the center of Fisk's operations



In 1867, while Jim deeply involved in the "Erie War," Jim Fisk met the woman who would change his life. While on a visit to the notorious Manhattan bordello of Annie Wood he was introduced to Helen Josephine "Josie" Mansfield. She was an unemployed actress; a friend of Miss Wood and clearly not one of her prostitutes. At the time Josie only owned one passable dress and her rent was hopelessly overdue. Though Jim Fisk had a wife back in Vermont, he was smitten by the poor girl and was pleased to pay her

rent and provide her with finery.

Josie Mansfield was considered extraordinarily beautiful, a fact that she discovered early and had always used to her advantage. As one historian put it,

"Perhaps a colder disgrace to her sex has never helped to ruin man since the world began."

She was born in Boston, but when she was around ten years old the family moved to Stockton, California. Soon after, her father was killed in a duel over a political matter and mother remarried a man named Warren. As Josie was growing up she earned the reputation as an incorrigible flirt. She caught the eye of a middle-aged attorney named D. W. Perley and Warren had to chase him away twice, with a pistol to his head. The matter became something of a scandal but Josie would later say she was being used by her parents in a blackmail plot.

She married a wandering actor named Frank Lawler. The marriage had been Josie's idea, Lawler said,

"Finally I did marry her to save her from the evil influence of her own parents."

The couple drifted east but Josie began to stray; they divorced after two years.

After meeting Jim Fisk, Josie gave up any attempt at acting. By 1870 she was living in a four story house on Twenty-Fourth Street that Jim had given her along with an extensive wardrobe, fine jewelry and virtually anything else she wanted.



The summer of 1869 Fisk met Edward S. “Ned” Stokes. Stokes was a handsome, athletic young man from a good family, but it was his less attractive side that Fisk was drawn to. Stokes was a gambler and a horseman who divided his time between racetracks and saloons. He was a flashy dresser who liked to be the center of attention, much like Jim Fisk himself, except that Stokes spent money at a faster rate than he could make it. Stokes’s mother owned an oil refinery in Brooklyn that had been closed for several years. Fisk and Stokes formed a company to reopen it, with Fisk providing the capital and discounted freight rates on the Erie Railroad for transferring oil. Stokes treated the treasury as his personal account.

On New Year’s Day, 1870, Josie Mansfield hosted an open house with an ample punch bowl and people were coming and going all day. Fisk invited Ned Stokes to join him at the party and there introduced him to Josie. As they chatted around the punchbowl people commented on what a handsome couple Josie and Ned made. At the time it pleased to see them together—his sweetheart and his bosom friend.

Not long after that Ned Stokes began paying call on Josie Mansfield and the relationship soon became a full blown love affair. When Fisk found out he sent a letter to Josie to find out where matters stood. She responded by accusing him of seeing actresses behind her back—a rumor that was circulating Manhattan at the time. This initiated a long series of letters between Jim and Josie which were, on both sides, sometimes accusatory, sometimes loving.

Fisk confronted Stokes, asking him to leave Josie alone.

“Ask me anything else, Jim,” Stokes replied. “Anything else in the world, I’ll do; but I can’t keep away from Josie. I Love her—and she loves me!”

Fisk thought he could handle the matter as if it were a business deal. He proposed they ask Josie to settle the things once and for all, and decide which of them she wanted. Josie’s response was

“I don’t see why we can’t all three be friends.”

To which Jim replied:

“No, Josie, it won’t do. You can’t run two engines on the same track in contrary directions at the same time.”

As far as Fisk was concerned Josie had chosen Ned Stokes, but Josie continued to ask Fisk for money. She claimed that he had told her he was holding \$25,000 in trust for her. She wanted it all. He refused this request, but agreed to pay any bills incurred up until five minutes to eleven o’clock three weeks prior—the time she had formally refused him. When he received her bills some had been obviously backdated. He paid them anyway, and several after, but his relationship with Josie had taken a legalistic turn.

Fisk and Stokes began to fight over the refinery. Stokes demanded \$200,000 or he would release Fisk's letters to Josie to the press. Fisk refused, though he desperately wanted the letters back. The refinery matter went to arbitration and Stokes surrendering his stock for \$15,000 in addition to the money he had already stolen. As part of the settlement Fisk's attorney took custody of the letters.

\$15,000 did not last Ned Stokes very long. He sued Fisk for \$200,000 in refinery profits he claimed he was owed. He also requested the letters back, declaring they would prove his claim. The Fisk/Mansfield letters were now the talk of the town. The press speculated that they were not merely love letters but contained evidence of Fisk's shady business practices. Fisk's friends, who knew the letters would do no more damage than had already been done, tried to persuade him to publish the letters himself and defuse Stokes's threats. Fisk came close to agreeing but refused, not wanting his soul splashed across the daily newspaper.

The judge dismissed Stokes's claim and stated that the status of the letters had already been decided. After the verdict Stokes was drowning his sorrows at Delmonico's when he heard the follow-up news—Fisk was now charging Stokes and Mansfield with blackmail. It was more than Ned Stokes could stand, he went looking for Fisk. He learned that Fisk was on his way to the Grand Central Hotel. He knew that Fisk always entered by the ladies entrance, so Stokes went in first and waited on the second floor landing. When he heard Fisk climbing the stairs Stokes started down saying:

"Now I've got you."



Stokes fired two shots at Fisk from a Colt pistol, one to the abdomen and one to the left arm. Stokes tried to flee but was captured. Fisk lived long enough to identify his killer before dying from the abdominal wound. Jim Fisk was 36-years-old.

Trial: June 1872

Awaiting trial, Stokes was put on Murderer's Row in Manhattan's Tombs prison. At the time, for men of means, prison meant confinement but not necessarily hardship. A prisoner could have whatever lifestyle he could afford. Stokes had a carpet on the floor, had his meals brought in from Delmonico's and had bottles of scented water for bathing. He met with reporters wearing a ruffled shirt with diamond studs.

At his trial, Stokes's defense was multi-pronged: he claimed , by turns, that he had shot out of self-defense, that he had been driven insane by Fisk's persecution, that the doctors' extensive probing had done more damage than his bullets, or that Fisk was killed by the morphine given him by the doctors. The trial resulted in a hung jury—at least one juror was suspected of being bribed.

At his second trial Stokes was convicted of first degree murder and sentenced to be hanged, but the verdict was overturned on appeal. In his third trial Stokes was found guilty of manslaughter and sentenced to six years at Sing Sing Prison.

"Had Stokes been an illiterate laborer," Edmund Stedman commented, "He would have dangled in a noose two months later."

Verdict:

1. Hung Jury
2. Guilty of first degree murder - overturned on appeal
3. Guilty of manslaughter

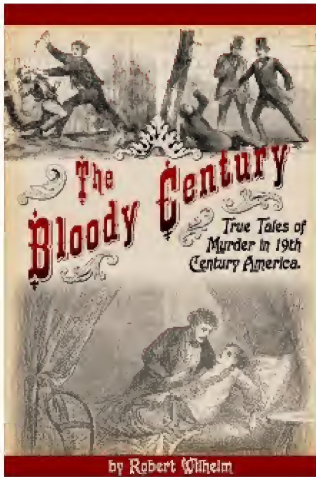
Aftermath:

Jubilee Jim Fisk lay in state for a day at the Grand Opera House, a theatre that he had owned and managed. More than twenty thousand people passed by to pay their respects and more than a hundred thousand more stood in the street. The body was taken by train to Brattleboro, Vermont; at every station crowds gathered to watch the train go by. In Brattleboro he lay in state one more day before being lowered into the ground.

Jim Fisk's flamboyant personality was sadly missed in New York. Though in life his business practices and personal morals had been criticized from pulpit and podium, and his market manipulations had directly or indirectly harmed much of the population, Fisk was remembered at his death for his acts of charity—most notably sending a trainload of supplies to the victims of the Great Chicago Fire of 1871. In song and story Jim Fisk became a lovable rogue and a friend to the workingman.

Thirty-nine letters from Jim Fisk to Josie Mansfield were published in the New York *Herald* one week after Jim Fisk's death. To the dismay of scandal mongers, they contained no insight into his business dealings, just evidence of his love for Josie and his jealousy of Ned Stokes.

Josie Mansfield left New York for Paris, France where she married Robert L. Read, an expatriate American lawyer. When he died she moved to Boston, then in 1899, in failing health, to Philadelphia to live with her sister. In 1909, in dire poverty, she moved with a brother to Watertown, South Dakota. Somehow she returned to Paris where she lived for many years. Josie died in 1931 at the American Hospital in Paris.



This is one of 50 stories featured in the new book *The Bloody Century*

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Saturday, August 22, 2015

Katie Hood's Fate.

Little Murders



Sixteen-year-old Katie Hood left the house the evening of Saturday, September 21, 1889 and never returned. She worked at Mike Schoenig's

saloon in Connersville, Indiana, and resided with her employer's family. Katie was known to be somewhat wild, and at one point, Schoenig fired her and sent her from his home for staying out until two or three in the morning. On her promise to do better, Schoenig rehired Katie, and up until the night of her disappearance she appeared to have reformed.

Katie Hood's reputation as a fast girl fueled speculation in Connersville that she had met with foul play. Some believed she had simply skipped town, but all she had with her were the clothes on her back, and most thought she was being held somewhere against her will. A rumor circulated that Katie had become an inmate of a brothel in the South End of Connersville, and on the night of September 27, a posse of men raided the house, sending the customers running in all directions. Reportedly, one respectable citizen jumped out of a window to avoid exposure. But when the dust settled, Katie Hood was not in the house.

As days passed with no trace of Katie Hood, suspicion began to grow that one of several prominent men often seen in Katie's company had been responsible for her disappearance. The *Connersville Daily Examiner* reported that enough circumstantial evidence existed that "...the strong arm of the law will soon have a father of a fine family, and well fixed financially, entangled in its meshes." His name was not divulged but detectives had him under surveillance.

All hopes of finding Katie Hood alive were dashed on September 30, when a train engineer found her body floating in the canal about a mile north of the city. Suicide was ruled out; she had a gash on the back of her head made by a blunt instrument, and marks on her neck and torn clothing indicated a struggle. The skirt of her dress was missing, it was believed to have

been weighted down and was torn away when the body floated up.

Many in Connersville, including those who knew the victim, believed that she had died as a result of an abortion or had been murdered to cover that crime. This question was likely answered during the postmortem examination of the body, but the procedure was held in the utmost secrecy. Coroner Larimore had no intention of releasing any information prior to the inquest.

No news was coming from the coroner's office and the anonymous, well-fixed, citizen had not been arrested, but the rumor mills were running full time. Everyone in Connersville knew that Katie Hood was murdered by her secret paramour, Henry Lee Jones. H. L. Jones was one of the richest men in Connersville, a good family man who had often been seen together with Katie Hood. According to Captain Bruce of the Indianapolis Police, who had been leading his own investigation of the murder, Katie Hood had engaged an attorney to bring suit against H. L. Jones for seduction and had met with Jones several times before her disappearance attempting to effect a compromise. Captain Bruce believe that Jones did not commit the murder himself but hired someone else to do it.

Public sentiment against Jones became so intense that the family decided to move out of Connersville. As the move was progressing, Henry Lee Jones suddenly became grievously ill and appeared to be on his death bed. "Tell baby that I lover her," was his message to his favorite daughter. Then he bade his family Farwell and said, "I die an innocent man."

Jones's death was suspected to be suicide by poison, and in the postmortem examination his stomach was removed and sent to a chemist for analysis. In the public mind, suicide was the equivalent of confession. This sentiment increased when it was learned that Coroner Larimore was a friend of Jones and physician to his family. It was thought he withheld information from the public to protect his friend.

The chemical analysis of Jones's stomach returned negative for poison but that did little to quell public belief that he had killed himself to escape prosecution for Katie Hood's murder. Though the accused was dead, there was an attempt to try the case in civil court. The administrator of Katie Hood's estate brought a suit against the estate of Henry Lee Jones, for \$10,000, charging him with the infliction of injuries resulting in the death of Katie Hood.

It would have been interesting to hear the arguments against H. L. Jones who had died before ever being arrested or indicted for the murder, but his estate challenged the validity of the lawsuit. Two years later, the Indiana Supreme Court ruled in favor of Jones's estate, quoting Lord Mansfield, "the wrong and the wrong-doer were buried together."

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Missing children: Some kids leave home to build a spaceport

22.10.2015

pravdareport.com



Missing children: Some kids leave home to build a spaceport.
56625.jpeg

AP photo

Nearly 5,000 people, including minors, disappear in Moscow every year. Pravda.Ru conducted an interview on the subject with a senior representative of the Criminal Investigation Directorate of the Russian Interior Ministry for the city of Moscow, Dmitry Pichugin.

"How often do people disappear in Moscow and for what reasons?"

"In Moscow, about 5,000 go missing every year. In 2012, there were 5,590

applications, in 2013 - 4,663 and in 2014 - 4,104 application. About 1,200-1,300 of them are related to missing children. About ninety percent of cases of missing children are related to those minor individuals, who leave their homes voluntarily. We call them "runners."

"How many cases of kidnapping do we have in Moscow?"

"There are not so many of them in Moscow - about 20-30 cases. Many cases are connected to family problems, when divorcing parents take their children from each other and file for kidnapping at times. This is a horrible situation, because law-enforcement officers have to distract themselves from much more important cases."

Also read: Child kidnapping in Moscow - Tales from the crypt

"What does a police officer do in such cases?"

"First and foremost, they interview the applicant. Many parents lie, though. They say that their kid disappeared, although everything in their family was perfect. Afterwards, when the missing child is found, it turns out that he or she was severely abused and beaten.

"A person may disappears for many reasons. A person can be either kidnapped or killed. Then, it can be an accident. The next category is the category of those people who leave their homes voluntarily - both minors and adults."

"What should people do, if something happens to their loved ones, if they lose someone?"

"One should contact police at once. Waiting for three days before going to police is absurd. Never ask so-called extrasensorial individuals for help. I can officially declare that psychics have never ever helped us find any of the missing people. Those psychics are swindlers and

scoundrels. One of them told us when we were looking for a missing person: "On this field, you will find a dead body." We did find a body there, but it was the body of a dog. That was such a waste of time.

"It would be very helpful to attach name and address tags to your children's or elderly relatives' clothes. A note in a pocket can also be very helpful."

"Do you have any bright stories from your experience?"

"There was a woman whose ten-year-old son left home and did not come back. We started searching the woman's apartment and the boy's room. We found some diaries, in which there were sketches of rockets and a spaceport. Next to those sketches he wrote: "Peter, you must start saving money one month in advance. We will need a lot of money. Save all chocolate bars, take some clothes and then we go." We found that Peter boy, who told us that they were going to build a spaceport with his friend. Peter was collecting chocolate bars and money, but did not have the courage to leave home when time came. He had his backpack ready, but didn't go.

"A little bit later we had a call from a man, from a town near Moscow, who told us that the boy that we were looking for was sleeping in his house. The man said: "I was driving in my town, when I saw the little boy walking. I stopped and asked him where he came from. I could see that he was not a local resident. The boy told me that he had business to do. I asked him to drop by and take a nap, I said that I would give him something to eat."

"So the boy came to that man's house, he ate and fell asleep. The man opened his backpack, found a diary and there was a home number written there. It was like a miracle. Volunteers took the boy home in five minutes after that call."

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In Cuenca a legend in which old, a young boy in love with a beautiful lady, the most beautiful he had ever walked the streets of this city, but what lay behind its beauty has a terrible secret.

From the Pillars street , down a paved lovely, arrived at the shrine chapel of Sorrows, built in the fourteenth century, although the current XVIII century and is where the legend is centered.



Down to Sorrows

He lived through these streets a beautiful boy, son of a hearer of the villa. The beautiful Swain , age make their raids, kept an unproven, and so took fame liar, bully and also bully; to anything

it could give credit their families, as the honorable position he played the father was certainly a sign of good lineage and descent.

But how things were at that time no one knows, the fact is that the boy ran one after another all the marriageable maidens of the place and, after woo and get their pleasurable purposes, let planted, nothing more.

But one day, he met a beautiful lady like the moon and seductive as diamond; he was also an outsider and newcomer to the city. When walking through the streets, women lowered their eyes and looked askance at what man was the first to throw a smile, as the girl left everyone with their mouths open for its beauty and irresistible impulse.

Young came out to meet and greet and just exchange a good morning or good afternoon, which always was friendly and cheerful. Until one day, our handsome hunk took the plunge and presented. Beautiful woman and said corresponded named Diana. Content and presumptuous, he went with the rest of his cronies to hesitate a bit before they even knew that name.

Diana, who was no fool, also noticed the beauty of the young, which eventually came to know better, but seeing your intentions clear, gave long and long.

The boy changed, remained preoccupied with Diana, was totally obsessed with her and have her, something that she became very, very difficult. Maybe that's why the men we like difficult

achievements, he took it as a personal challenge and even declined offers of his friends, with whom he was on raids.

And one morning, on the eve of All Saints, Diana sent him a letter that read young surprised and very willingly, " You in the door of Sorrows. I'll be yours at Night of the Dead ".



Finally the boy was going to get. That night was arranged as he could. With their best clothes and the most sublime fragrances kept for special occasions, went out to conquer the lady that drove him crazy.

But that night a storm was forged. Thunder rumbled and the sky lit up as if it were fire. He must be at the scheduled time at the place where Diana had said. And there, swift and fast, crossed the four streets that separated him from the door

of Sorrows and saw the beautiful maiden, dressed in clothes that looked like princess.

His heart beat faster with every step he took, and his desire was so hot that the boots seemed to burn the soles of his feet and did lengthen stride.

She was in the court and he lunged at her, who responded with such sweet and tender kisses the boy, mad with despair, was intensifying his touch until his hands began to lift her skirt.

Thunder fell and lightning lit the faces of the capitals leaving intuit diablesco shadows, but the two young men were so carried away by the passion did not notice or storm.

She almost as red as it even quicker lifted her skirt so that the boy got his purpose. When he discovered his beautiful white legs, I saw that she wore high clogs. The boy was taking away the right slowly and suddenly struck by lightning that lit full foot Diana, who turned out to be a foot, but a hoof; and his leg, a goat.

Terrified, the boy threw the shoe and ran screaming in terror and fear. In turn Diana, who was the devil, with a deep, booming voice and torn loudly, throwing laughter echoing among the ancient stones of the sanctuary.

Young panic, embraced the cross that was on the door of Sorrows; the devil was on him, throwing a blow while a huge thunder sounded. When the boy opened his eyes, the blow had grazed his shoulder and left a mark on the stone, still smoking.

It is said that the boy entered the sanctuary of Sorrows and never again see the light of day or night.



And there, at the door of this place, we can see the famous stone cross which the young handsome bully finally grab to save the devil's claw, which was set in stone and can still be seen.



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A tragic story in the foothills of the Himalayas

Late ninth century, in the mountains of Himalaya , a group of nearly six hundred people walk more than 5000 meters high for ice cream place and away from the known routes. Under the slope can be seen a small glacial lake.

Conditions are harsh, the cold is extreme and advance through the snow harder and harder, no one in the group suspected in a moment a tremendous hailstorm kill them all and that the small lake that lies at their feet years will be announced after as " Lake of the skeletons ", being his own bones which give name to this faraway place.



The Roopkund lake is located in India, in the state of Uttarakand , near the Himalaya . In 1942 a guard in the area found on the shores of Lake piles of human bones, the first research conducted pointed to a nomadic group had died at the scene of an epidemic, or perhaps by some storm or snow avalanche, the first dating of the bones was between the twelfth and fifteenth centuries.

In 2004 another more serious and more accurate results about what happened there centuries before research was conducted, many skulls were investigated and found in them a peculiar fractures that later were associated with hail, of considerable size. The cold weather in the area throughout the year helped preserve many remains in fair condition, even a nearly intact mummified body. DNA studies concluded that there were two distinct tribes among the dead, lower and strong, possibly indigenous and other higher, but also related to the former.

It is estimated that the bones of nearly six hundred people resting on the slopes, edge and bottom of the lake and all died within a short period of time by the hailstorm.

During the passage of time, landslides and avalanches have been sliding bodies to the lake, but experts believe that died in the top of the slope. During most of the year, the remains are covered by snow and ice, and only for a short period of the year, during defrost, one can see the skeletons scattered around.

Nobody knows why he was such a large group of people in a place like that, where they came from, or where they were going, because at that time there was no known route to Nepal in that place.

Today a cult is celebrated in the lake which takes place every twelve years, in which the faithful bathe in its waters and honor those who lost their lives there.



Possibly this information can be considered little or nothing paranormal , however it is a way of showing those things out of the ordinary to happen in the world, in addition to this publication seeks to remind us of the fragility of life and indeed the existence and . how fleeting our lives
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- 16 November 2015
- From the section Magazine



This shot from Google Streetview shows Lynda cleaning the pavement

Houses on an all but abandoned street in Liverpool are being sold for £1. But 30 years ago it was a vibrant inner-city street, so what went wrong, asks Stephanie Power.

If you type Garrick Street, Liverpool, into Streetview, you get a picture of a row of empty terraced houses with one woman dressed in jeans and a jumper, washing the pavement outside her house.

This street doesn't look empty because it's a quiet day, it looks empty because no-one lives there. Almost no-one. Lynda

Hunter, her husband George, and another man a little further down the road are Garrick Street's only residents.

All the other houses are "tinned up", their windows blocked with metal against vandals. They were earmarked for demolition nearly a decade ago as part of a housing policy which would have seen these Victorian terraces replaced by new-builds.

Walking along the street, you feel like you're in an unused film set. It's eerily quiet, but you can feel the spirit of the people who used to live and play here.

"I moved in 27 years ago," says Lynda "when I married my husband. This was his house. It was a lovely street then. We had good neighbours - families, elderly people - a good community. Summer days were the best. We'd have street parties and we would sit out into the early evenings."

And while the street may be reminiscent of a forgotten film set, it is in a bustling area - located just off Smithdown Road, one of the main routes into the city centre. A new secondary school has opened yards away and there is a big student population here. The local paper gives you "11 Signs Smithdown Road Is On The Up". A giant street party celebrated "Smithdown's" renaissance last summer.

Image copyright Stephanie

Power
Image caption



Lynda has lived on the street for almost three decades

So where is everybody on Garrick Street?

Garrick Street was a mix of owner-occupiers like Lynda and others who rented privately or lived in social housing.

In 2002 the Labour government introduced the Housing Market Renewal Initiative. The idea was to regenerate areas that were in

"housing market failure".

There was a lot of money to be had, over £300m in Merseyside alone and, as Liverpool City Council deputy mayor Ann O'Byrne says, the administration at the time bought as many properties as they could so they could clear streets for housing renewal.



Some of the houses need a lot of restoration work

Image copyright Stephanie Power

Image caption

The initial plans covered an area of 40,000 houses which were to be considered for refurbishment or clearance. The majority of properties were listed for refurbishment but over 7,000 were to be demolished. The Garrick Street houses were on that list.

The scale of the project was huge. Maybe too big. The Lib Dem leader of the council from 2005-10, Warren Bradley, has said that on reflection, his council had left parts of Liverpool looking like a war zone. "We announced six renewal areas, and in hindsight we should have done it one by one. You can't rip the heart of the community and promise them something in 15 years time. We should have landscaped areas so that people didn't feel they were living in a war zone."

Lynda says: "The council said they'd done a survey of people on Garrick Street and the majority they had spoken to were unhappy and wanted to move."

But Lynda says the street was fully occupied. People only started moving out once demolition was threatened.



The Garrick Street houses were due to be demolished

Image caption

Was it that Garrick Street only declined because the council ran it down in order to get HMRI money? Town planner Jonathan Brown followed HMRI closely: "If you draw a red line around an area and say it's unsustainable it becomes unsustainable. You can't get mortgages and it freezes in the very blight it is supposed to resolve."

Meanwhile Lynda says it was terrible watching people leave: "The old lady two doors away, she'd lived here 57 years. She had buried her husband from that house. She had buried her daughter from that house. All her memories were there. She was sobbing the day she left."

The Housing Market Renewal Initiative (or Pathfinders)

- The intention was to renew failing housing markets and reconnect them to regional markets
- It was launched in 2002 and ran until 2011 when the coalition government ended funding
- There were nine Pathfinders schemes in Birmingham/Sandwell, East Lancashire, Hull and East Riding, Manchester/Salford, Merseyside, Newcastle/Gateshead, North Staffordshire, Oldham/Rochdale, and South Yorkshire
- Each scheme was allowed relative freedom to develop strategies; their boards were made up of members from local authorities and other key regional and local stakeholders

Source: House of Commons

When the coalition government came into power in 2010, HMRI was scrapped. O'Byrne says: "The city lost £120m. And our housing policy was an absolute mess."

Lynda was left in a street with almost no neighbours and no clear plans for her future. "In the last three years, it's been like a warzone. Youths setting fire to vacant properties, lead stolen off the roof, people trying to kick the door in. A couple of weeks ago someone put a brick through my living room window. It's been horrendous."

In January this year the government changed policy again. "The government removed all the powers that local authorities had to do demolition," says O'Byrne.

So the council had to review housing policy again. In 2014 they had run a pilot scheme offering derelict houses to potential residents for £1. In return new owners had to promise to

do up the houses and live in them for five years.

The halt on demolition has provided the council with the perfect opportunity to expand the £1 house scheme.



Jayalal Madde, pictured with the mayor of Liverpool, Joe Anderson, bought the first Garrick Street £1 home in December 2014

Image copyright PA

Image caption

Garrick Street is one of a handful of streets in Liverpool which will be part of the council's new £1 houses scheme. Called Homes for a £1 Plus, applicants can bid for one of 150 houses as long as they live and work in the city, promise to do it up within 12 months, and live in it for at least five years.

Good news for Lynda surely. The whole of Garrick Street will be refurbished. The community will be rebuilt. "It's too late for me at my age. And it also means my house is only worth £1. The scheme is good for first-time buyers but I need my forever home now. I can't live on a building site for years. I want my grandchildren to be able to stay with me and play out."



House on Garrick Street which says

Image copyright Stephanie Power

Lynda is waiting for the council to move her into a different home elsewhere. And as she plans her move away, upwards of 2,000 people have applied to rebuild Garrick Street and others around it.

O'Byrne says: "What we learned from the pilot is that it's not enough to interview candidates. We need to show them the properties. These are decanted homes. No cables and no

pipework. We are talking about four walls and maybe a roof in some cases."

Is a commitment to building a sense of community one of the criteria for those looking for a house for a £1? "Everyone in the pilot says they have put their heart and soul into this. When do you get a chance to do genuine homesteading other than building a house outright yourself. It's such a unique opportunity. They've told us, we're not here for five years. We're here for life."

Meanwhile Lynda shows the plastic sheeting that now protects her bay window from another brick attack. But after living under the threat of demolition for years she is positive.

"I'm looking forward to moving. I'm relieved the council is going to help me at last."

It seems a shame, though, that after 27 years Lynda's time in Garrick Street will end just as the place is about to come back to life.

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Laying an Egg

typepad.com

July 18, 2010

England was in full religious ferment during the first few years of the 19th century. Joanna Southcott was leading a messianic crusade with countless followers revering her as "the Lamb" who would bring them to salvation. Other prophets like Richard Brothers had their own crusades promising the imminent coming of God's kingdom on Earth (the English were considered to be God's chosen people). Tales of signs and wonders proclaiming the impending Second Coming spread widely.

Which brings us to Mary Bateman (a.k.a. "The Yorkshire Witch"). Born Mary Harker on a small farm in North Yorkshire in 1768, Mary had few choices but to go into service (much as Joanna Southcott did). Unfortunately, Mary was not a particularly good servant and quickly acquired a reputation for petty thieving which got her fired. As a compulsive liar, thief, confidence artist, and all-around crook, Mary never managed to hold any job for long. She was a very good actress however and managed to impress people with her claims of supernatural powers. By 1788, she had set herself up in Leeds as a dressmaker and part-time fortune teller. Her marriage to John Bateman nearly ended when her husband discovered his wife's criminal past. On one occasion, she tricked him into going to his home town to see his father who was supposedly ill. While he was away, Mary sold her husband's clothes to pay off a debt and avoid prison. He eventually joined the militia to get away from his treacherous wife but eventually returned and the two of them eventually settled down into a larcenous life together (they had four children and Mary was the main supporter of the entire family).

With no other source of income, Mary became a full-time fortune teller and con artist. Posing as "Mrs. Moore", a seventh child of a seventh child, Mary carried out elaborate schemes to trick victims into handing over



their savings to her. She developed quite a reputation as a local miracle worker who could accomplish amazing things with her powers. She was also a keen observer of new trends and always trying to find ways to exploit them for her own profit. When Joanna Southcott's began "sealing" her followers in 1802 (giving them a special token to mark them as being among the 144,000 to be saved according to the Book of Revelation), Mary managed to get one of the markers herself. It was then that she began one of her most notorious (and profitable) schemes.

Although her reputation as a fortune-teller had begun to suffer (too many of her victims complained), Mary played on her status as one of Southcott's "sealed" to make an amazing

announcement. Like many other country women of her time, she kept several hens to supply her with fresh eggs and she claimed that one of them had laid an egg with the inscription "Crist is coming". Mary announced that she had been granted a vision which told her that her hen would lay fourteen special eggs and that the last one would mark the beginning of the Apocalypse. As word of this marvel began to spread, more eggs bearing religious inscriptions were laid and crowds quickly gathered (she charged them a penny each to see her marvelous hens). Not only did the eggs proclaim Christ's coming, but they announced that it would happen *very soon* which added to the growing hysteria. Along with making money from displaying the chickens, Mary also began providing pilgrims with special "seals" (a piece of paper bearing the initials "JC") which would guarantee its bearer admission into Heaven following the Apocalypse. Thousands of visitors came to be saved.

It's hard to say how long this would have gone on but a skeptical doctor managed to examine one of the eggs and found that the inscription had been written in ink. When authorities were notified, they staged a raid on the tavern where Mary lived with her chickens. They caught her red-handed (so to speak) inserting one of her special eggs up the chicken's egg duct so it could be "laid" later. Mary was arrested and the resulting scandal forced Joanna Southcott to stop sealing her own followers because of the stigma.

A little thing like public exposure didn't stop Mary Bateman for long. She simply switched to becoming a practitioner of folk remedies (as well as being an abortionist). Her services were in high enough demand that the inevitable rumours about the people buying her "medicines" didn't deter other customers. Two Quaker sisters named Kitchen sought out her services until one of them sickened and died after taking "medicine" that Mary had provided. When the mother of the two women arrived to deal with her daughter's death, she ended up sickening and dying as well along with her surviving daughter. All three of them were buried in the same grave. Although Mary insisted that all three of the Kitchen women had died of the plague, authorities quickly became suspicious. After their creditors investigated what property was remaining, they found scarcely any furniture or belongings left in the Kitchen sisters' house.

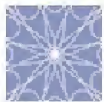
Amazingly, Mary was able to continue with her frauds despite the suspicion that she had crossed the line from theft to murder. The previous death of another woman, Rebecca Perigo, was also being investigated after her husband complained to authorities in 1808. It was the husband, still being fleeced by Mary two years after his wife's death, who arranged for a meeting at which she was arrested by two officers. A search of Mary Bateman's house turned up items that had belonged to Rebecca Perigo and the Kitchen sisters. The various ingredients that went into her "remedies" were also found, including poison. After going on trial at York in 1809, Mary was quickly found guilty of murder despite her repeated claims of innocence. Desperate to escape hanging, Mary even tried "pleading her belly" (claiming to be pregnant) although a medical examination proved otherwise.

With all her legal options exhausted, Mary Bateman went to the gallows on March 20, 1809. More than five thousand people turned out for the hanging including many who still believed in her supernatural powers and were convinced that the "Yorkshire witch" would somehow save herself from death. As the *Annals of Yorkshire* later described the hanging, Mary "was

launched into eternity with a lie upon her lips having denied her guilt to the last". As was the common practice of the time for executed murderers, her body was turned over to the local medical school for dissection. There was enough public interest in Mary's corpse for the local hospital to charge money to see the body (more than 2500 people paid threepence each). Her skin was also tanned and cut into pieces so they could be sold as souvenirs. Believers in the powers of the "Yorkshire Witch" used the skin pieces as talismans (it would have galled Mary to know that she wasn't making any money from her corpse).

Mary Bateman's skeleton is still on display at the Thackray Medical Museum in Leeds, England. Visitors seeing her there can appreciate her presence as a strange sort of testimonial to the power of human gullibility and how easily it can be exploited.

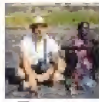
Comments



Mark@Life
Insurance

Is this a real story?

Posted by: Mark@Life Insurance | July 18, 2010 at 11:50 AM



Romeo
Vitelli

Oh yes. Isn't history fun?

Posted by: Romeo Vitelli | July 18, 2010 at 02:38 PM

Leeds pub garden floods, men go for pint anyway

10h 10 hours ago

bbc.co.uk

Leeds pub garden floods, men go for pint anyway

From the topic You What?



John Kelly and Steve Holt having a pint in a flooded beer garden

After the outside of their pub flooded in Leeds, there was only one thing to do for John Kelly and Steve Holt...

Embrace the rain, get wet and have a pint.

"The water came in pretty quickly and pretty heavily and once we realised, Steve (the pub's owner) drove off to get some sandbags," the manager of the Kirkstall

Bridge Inn tells Newsbeat.

"I stood and shouted at the water but it didn't seem to do much.

"Then we realised it wasn't getting any higher and the damage had already been done, so we decided we might as well sit in the beer garden anyway and have a pint," said John.

The water came to within a couple of feet of the Kirkstall Bridge Inn's back door.

"It was remarkably cold. The first 15 minutes were a little bit uncomfortable but once we settled down it was surprisingly therapeutic, to sit not just *by* the river but *in* the river.

"It was a little surreal but it just became normal," he adds. "It was nice."

John says there were no seats available inside the pub at the time. It was full of customers having Sunday lunch.

"So it was either loiter outside or sit in the river," John explains. "We just thought we're not going to get beaten by a river, we're going to have a beer.

"The customers thought we were pretty stupid - they're probably right," he says. "Especially the parents who'd told their children off for running too close to the river.

"A crowd gathered and eventually we got shouted out by Steve's missus and we had to get out like naughty little boys."

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John Kelly and Steve Holt having a pint in a flooded beer garden

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The legend of Gambrinus, the King of Beer

August 13, 2015 by Micky Bumbar (Lords of the Drinks)



A typical portrait of Gambrinus, the King of Beer.

As this is our 500th post on Lords of the Drinks, we wanted to do a special story. And what better than the great legend of Gambrinus, the King of Beer. You might have seen him before, as he is the fine gentleman you see in the LOTD-logo. This mythical figure was known from folklore tales all over Western Europe but, much like King Arthur, his character was probably based on a real man. Over time he became the worldwide patron saint of beer, hops, brewing and drunken fun, having many beers and bars named after him. The most famous mythical story about Gambrinus is when he gives his soul to the devil in exchange for beer and then beats him at his own sneaky game.

Man behind the myth

Before we lose ourselves in Belgian folklore tales, let's first try to establish which man in history the legend of the King of Beer is based on. Gambrinus' title isn't always the same in every story, but in most he is either the Duke of Brabant (an area that covers territories in present Belgium and Holland) or King of the Netherlands. This makes John I (1252/53-1294) the top candidate. Not only does his Dutch name Jan Primus, after more than a few beers, sound exactly like Gambrinus, John I was in fact Duke of Brabant and well-known for his love for beer. He was honorary member of the brewers guild in Brussels and after a smashing victory in the Battle of Worringen in 1288 he threw a huge beer party for his army. At this event he gave a legendary speech, while standing on a stage of beer barrels.



An alternative name is John the Fearless (1371-1419), who was Duke of Burgundy. This John was also quite fond of long drinking sessions. Plus under his reign the use of hops in beer was legalized in several areas in Belgium. Since the mythical Gambrinus is said to have introduced hops, this could be a clear indication. Although hops was already used in nearby areas before John, and all together it took about 500 years before this ingredient had found its way to all corners of "the Lowlands".

A third candidate is a Germanic king, who is himself quite a mythical figure since there is little known about him, called Gambrivius. It was said that the Gods taught him

The Dutch beer Hertog Jan is named after Duke John I of Brabant.

how to brew. In the 16th century the Bavarian writer Johannes Aventinus claimed that Gambrivius was in fact Gambrinus, that he lived 1730 years BC and learned how to brew from the Egyptians, who believed their skills were given to them by their Gods. However historians already labeled this story as highly unlikely and probably we're dealing with a piece of early German propaganda. Nevertheless the stories about Gambrinus were known far beyond the Netherlands and Belgium, so it is possible that the myth is based on more than one actual person.

Gambrinus and the Devil

In the most popular folk tale about the King of Beer, Gambrinus is a good-looking but poor young man, who works as a glassblower's apprentice. He falls in love with the daughter of his boss, Flandrine, but she wants nothing with him. "Not before you become a man with status." The heartbroken Gambrinus leaves his town in an attempt to forget Flandrine. While traveling with his violin, it turns out that he has a real talent for music. Soon enough he is well-known all over Belgium and Holland. When the people of his town hear about this famous musician from their town they are very proud of him and beg him to come back. So Gambrinus returns and gives his first concert in his hometown. He is amazing, until he spots Flandrine in the crowd and chokes. His music becomes awful and the crowd goes mad and riots. As Gambrinus is held responsible for these riots, he is thrown in jail. There he draws the conclusion that his life is worthless and it's best to hang himself.

As he is about to commit suicide, the Devil, dressed as a hunter, visits Gambrinus in his jail cell and asks him why he is so unhappy and if he can change that in exchange for his soul in 30 years. Gambrinus says he would give everything up if Flandrine would fall in love with him. The Devil says that love is the one thing that is beyond his control but he can basically do anything else. "Well, then give me something to take my mind of her", says Gambrinus. The Devil says he has such a thing and they sign a contract for his soul.

The next day when he gets out of jail, the young lad feels a strong urge for betting. This new passion, with the help of the devil, makes him very rich, but he still hasn't lost his passion for Flandrine. He looks her up and says he is very rich now, but still she refuses him. "I don't care if you have money or not. You're still a nobody. Come back when you are a king or a duke."



The devil dressed up in a hunter uniform with feathered hat.

As Gambrinus leaves town depressed, he meets with the 'hunter' a second time. He explains how gambling could not erase his love for Flandrine and if the Devil can do anything else for him. "Sure, you see those plants over there? I will show you how to use them in a drink called beer." The Devil shows Gambrinus how to build a brewery, how to brew beer and gives him seeds to grow hops. Not without a little tasting of course and after a few cups the sad man actually does feel a lot better. The Devil also gives him a chime that plays such wonderful music, that everyone that hears its music simply must dance to it.

Gambrinus goes back to his hometown and grows his hops, builds his brewery and practices on his chime. And when his first brew is ready he calls on all the people from his town, who humiliated him at his last concert, to the market square for a taste. At first none of them likes this bitter drink and they mock Gambrinus and his stupid

beer. But then he starts to play his chime and of course everyone starts to dance. He lets them suffer for several hours, till everyone is really thirsty. When the music finally stops they turn to the beer and love it more with every sip they take. Gambrinus and his brewery are a hit and this news travels fast.

Gambrinus spreads his new drink all over the country and the King of the Netherlands even rewards him with a title: Duke of Brabant. Although Gambrinus himself prefers the unofficial title King of Beer better. He spends his days mostly drinking and partying. Finally he is not only rich, but also a man who moves around in the highest circles of society.

Flandrine, who secretly liked him too all this time but was too proud to admit it, waits for the duke to come back and ask her hand a third time. But when he doesn't she decides to pay him a visit. As she puts out her hand, Gambrinus doesn't recognize her and thinks it's just another person that wants to try his beer. So he gives her a glass and turns away. The beer finally got him to forget Flandrine, as he wished for.

The times pass and for 30 years Gambrinus lives the good life. But then the Devil comes back to collect his soul. When he spots him the tipsy duke decides to welcome him with music from his chime. As it turns out even the Devil can't resist these tones and he starts dancing. After a few hours every bone in his body starts to hurt and he begs Gambrinus to stop. He will even tear up the contract for his soul, if the King of Beer doesn't play one more note. So it happens. The happy Gambrinus gives the devil a barrel of his own brew, that he finishes in one angry sip before returning to hell, claiming he'll be back for this soul after Gambrinus' natural life.

The King of Beer lives almost 100 years in drunkenness until finally word reaches hell that he died. The Devil is eager to collect his soul but when he gets to the place where Gambrinus has died, instead of a body he finds a beer barrel. The Devil then accepts that the soul of the King of Beer will never be his.

Gambrinus and the huge barrel

And there's a second famous tale about how Gambrinus gained his title King of Beer. A group of brewers came together to choose their new leader. They agreed that it had to be someone who was strong and courageous and they came up with a contest; whoever could carry a huge beer barrel the fastest over a distance of 'two stone throws', would be their new first man.

One after another tried to move this enormous barrel full of beer. Some of the contestants managed to move it a few meters but nobody came even close to the finish line. Last of all it was Gambrinus' turn. Instead of using brutal force, he had a servant install a little tap in the barrel. He then went to lay under it and drank beer till the barrel was empty. After this cunning trick it was a piece of cake to move the barrel.

Impressed by his shrewdness, as well as his drinking skills, the other brewers immediately named Gambrinus their leader and gave him the title King of Beer.

Gambrinus' legacy

Besides these tales, the legacy of Gambrinus has been honored in many songs and poems in Medieval Europe. Not just in Holland, Belgium and Germany but also in England, France and Czech Republic, to name a few. In that last country one of the most popular beers is named Gambrinus. There's also a Belgian beer Primus and a Dutch one called Hertog Jan (Duke John), which are both named after the most-likely 'real' Gambrinus. All around the world there



Gambrinus is honored all over the world by bars that wear his name.

are numerous bars named after the saint patron of beer and many student fraternities honor his name and legend. April the 11th is even named King Gambrinus Day. So put this date in your agenda and be sure to raise a glass or two for the Duke of Brabant, also known as the King of Beer.

Micky Bumbar

This entry was posted in Folklore and Mythology and tagged April 11th, beer, beer barrel, beer makes you forget, beer making, Belgian beer,

Belgium, booze, brewer, Cambrinus, contract, czech republic, dancing, daughter, deal with the devil, Devil, drunk, Duke of Brabant, Duke of Burgundy, flanders, Flandrine, folklore, Gambrinus, Gambrivius, Germany, glass blower, Holland, hops, inventor of beer, Jan Primus, John I, John the Fearless, King Gambrius Day, King of Beer, legend, love, love story, Lowlands, music, myth, mythology, netherlands, pain, saint patron, soul, tale, tales, tipsy. Bookmark the permalink.

7 thoughts on “The legend of Gambrinus, the King of Beer”



1. PorterGirl says:

August 14, 2015 at 6:33 am

What a legend. So impressed am I by this fine fellow that I feel it only fitting that I celebrate his greatness this evening in the time honoured fashion. I feel a bit sorry for Flandrine but maybe she shouldn't have been so picky early on. It just goes to show how far a few drinks can get you with the ladies :)



• Micky Bumbar (Lords of the Drinks) says:

August 14, 2015 at 9:22 am

Oh yes, every real woman loves a drunkard! At least that's what I tell myself haha...

Anyway, I didn't put it in the story but Flandrine actually never gets married and dies alone. Bit of a downer but the upside is that if she would have given it away easily, we would never had hoppy beers.

So if I may propose a toast: here's to difficult women who 'blue ball' men all over the world, driving them to the greatest inventions that make this life better.

Cheers,

Micky



■ PorterGirl says:

August 14, 2015 at 9:58 am

Well, at least Flandrine could drown her sorrows and mend her broken heart – maybe she invented that as a technique for getting over a lost love!

To all the difficult women! (Who are not quite so difficult after a few large ones ;))
Cheers! Lucy



■ Micky Bumbar (Lords of the Drinks) says:
August 15, 2015 at 2:58 pm

Hahahaha nice one with the large ones. Ah, where would we be without them?! I think alcohol worldwide caused more births than it took lives. ;)



■ PorterGirl says:
August 16, 2015 at 9:47 am

A very good point! Alcohol – bringer of life itself!

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Guanches legends

According to the legend in Gomera, existed then, seven places from which emanated magic water and whose origin no one knew. These seven jets, apart from give virtues revealed also, when you looked at in its waters, whether or not you were dating. If the water was clear, love would come, but if clouded, just had to wait.

The holidays approaching Beñesmen and a group of young slingshots went to Los jets Epina to look into it. Among them was Gara , princess of Agulo .

He looked out and at first gave him a quiet and perfect image, but then came shadows and began to stir ... Gerián , sage place, made him a warning: "- What has to happen will happen. Fire Escape, Gara, or the fire shall consume you. " Gara silent, but the sad omen ran from mouth to mouth.



On the eve of the holidays, Tenerife came from the Menceyes and other nobles. The Mencey of Adeje came with his son Jonay , strong young and handsome. Gara could not stop watching, and as their eyes met, love hopelessly trapped them.

Shortly after, even at parties, their commitment was public. But behold, as soon as it began to spread the

happy news, El Teide, formerly known as Echeyde (Hell), he began to spit lava and fire, so hard from Gomerathe show was terrifying. They recalled the omen given the Gara innocent: Gara, princess of Agulo , the place of water; Jonay, pure fire, from the Island of Hell ... That love was then impossible. Great evils were coming if not separated. Then his parents categorically ordered not to meet again. And appeased the volcano, and completed the holidays, returned to Tenerife all visitors, plus one left with an empty soul and broken chest.

You may also like: The Mysterious Staircase Loretto Chapel, Miracle or Legend?

They say Jonay jumped into the sea in the middle of the night to swim to his beloved. Two Animal inflated bladders tied at the waist helped him to float when the forces are exhausted him. Long was the journey and already with the first light of dawn reached its destination.

Sneaking was in search of his beloved, and finding, embraced passionately. They escaped through the rubber under a cedar forest and surrendered to passion and love. The father of Gara, aware of the flight of his daughter, stormed after him. They were found loving, and when young people realized their presence, they sought only way out ... A relentless rod sharp cedar, placed between them, uniting their hearts was his mortal ally. They eye to eye, tightened against each other, but are transferred and leaving together forever ".

Gara, princess water and Jonay, prince of fire , are named today to the highest summit of La Gomera and the Garajonay National Park .



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The first news watching this strange creature, date from 1960 and are due Cornstalk , Virginia, United States, where a father and his daughter were traveling leisurely drive when they encountered a strange winged figure, but in human form, over 2 meters, large and hypnotic eyes red and dark cover gray hair.

That vision only lasted a few seconds but mark their lives.



His next appearance was in November 1966, and when witnesses repeated the modeled description of the creature spotted five years ago, the legend began to spread like wildfire area.



On November 1 a neighboring city of Charleston who identified himself as Richard West told police that a winged creature that looks humanoid , about two meters high and about three major on their wings, stood atop a nearby housing, to ascend vertically "like a helicopter." Highlighting their bright red eyes.

On November 12, 1966 near Clendenin , Virginia. Five men were in the local cemetery, preparing the grave for burial, when something like a human being, took off from some nearby trees and flew over their heads. The men were confused because there seemed to be a bird, but a man with wings.

On the night of November 14, two pairs formed by Roger and Linda Scarberry , and Steve and Mary Mallette, who walked by car in Point Pleasant (WV), along with some soldiers, known as TNT deposits observed a creature about 2m tall, with two wings folded back and



watching them with two bright reddish eyes.

Accelerated, but despite reaching 160 km / h creature followed them closely and without apparent effort, meters the car without flapping its huge wings over 3 meters wide. Only a fine birdie, similar to that emitted "by a large mouse", accompanying this strange winged creature until it disappeared.

The sheriff , excited to hear witnesses, immediately moved to the area, which housed an explosives factory and numerous storage tanks many of them underground, but found nothing, just a slight interference on your radio. "It was those two large red eyes like

headlights, which overwhelmed us, "declare shortly after witnesses.



At 10 and a half hours that evening, Newell Partridge , a local contractor who lived in Salem about 90 miles from Point Pleasant , was watching television when the screen suddenly went dark. Your dog named "Bandit" began to howl on the front porch so Newell went out to see what was happening.

When he stepped onto the porch, Newell saw Bandit barking toward the barn which was a few meters from the house.

Newell pointed the flashlight in that direction and saw two red circles that compared with reflectors of a bicycle. The dog was shot out then those red eyes, while Newell came home looking for his shotgun. Dam of absolute fear, decided not to go out and slept that night with the gun on the bed.



On the 16th, also in the vicinity of the former military depot, another alleged witness said he saw the monster: "I saw the shadows, it was as if he had been dragging on the floor and slowly was standing, gray and much taller than a man, with two terrible red eye ".

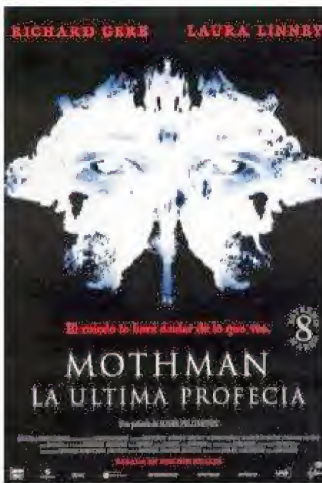
The next day the sheriff George Johnson held a press conference in which several witnesses said

they had seen the press. He was baptized immediately as Mothman or moth man.



The hysteria broke out. Dozens of people confessed to having seen the Mothman., And journalist Mary Hyre began publishing articles on this strange character in the newspaper "The messenger" and began investigating until he was visited by two strange men in black (another day talk about them), who advised him to stop publishing articles on the subject.

Mary, claimed that almost every night, the victim of a dream that was repeated every morning was unveiled. Looked like the bridge Silver Bridge, which stands at the entrance to Point Pleasant, a premonition that was not far from reality, as we shall see later collapsed.



The next thing the shock of seeing the strange winged creature was, was Marcella Bennett, who observed clearly as a figure humanoid gray rose from the floor behind the vehicle. "It seemed as if he had been lying on the ground. He got up slowly.

He was a big, gray being greater than a man, with glowing red eyes, terrible ". The impression that caused the creature was so great and the hypnotic effect of their eyes set on the torso so pervasive, that the witness fell stunned to the ground with his small, entering the house from the hand of one of his companions. Entrenched in the house felt like creature roamed outside for a few minutes, and even saw looking through the windows into the house.



The November 25th in a field of crops at 7.15 am, a witness testified that when he went to work, a human figure grayish color, rose vertically from the floor and lunged at his car. He accelerated, but the Mothman was following him, turning on the car as if you were playing for several kilometers.

The next day, Ruth Foster watched the creature

outside your home, in your garden, and 27, the young Connie Carpenter saw a man dressed in gray unfurled a huge wings and headed to his car, swerving when it was about to impact. "Those eyes. Were a deep red, and once fixed on me, I could not take mine from them," said witness the researcher John Keel, a renowned journalist, who for five occasions traveled to West Virginia to collect in situ hundreds of testimonies and publish in his magazine "The flying willow review" ("The magazine Flying Saucers").



On December 4, several pilots belonging to the nearby military base Gallipoli , also have seen the monster maneuvering and planning over the river, and was able to calculate that about 100 m high and nearly 100 km per hour.

Later he would have continued with their aircraft with the intention to photograph him, but could no longer says that being would have disappeared in one of his movements near a thick forest and so sightings followed with at least 100 witnesses.

Amid such fever began to untie the speculation, some said it was an angel who came to warn of disaster; others, he was a demon who came to cause it, it was a mutated creature radioactivity in the area, and even a curse launched 500 years ago by an Indian leader named Hokolessqua , before dying ambushed.



Along with appearances Mothman also multiplied the UFO sightings , and the presence of strange men dressed in black as the journalist who interviewed Mary Hyre

Coincidence or not, sightings of the Mothman stopped the night of December 15, 1967 when the bridge Silver Bridge , 700 meters long crossing the Ohio River collapsed, claiming the lives of more than 46 people, as was the repetitive dream of Mary Hyre , which surprisingly, was at that time the bridge with

several other witnesses of the apparitions .. The Mothman never again to be seen there.



With all the material collected those years, John Keel wrote " The Mothman Prophecies "(Mothman prophecies"), to be made into a film in 2002 starring Richard Gere.



In Virginia these events are still alive, and the producer of "X-File", Cris Carter , also devoted an episode of the popular series this creature that certainly is one of the most witnesses had in the paranormal world.

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Legend of the Green Children



ACCORDING TO **Jacques Bergier** , in August 1887, near a village called **Banjós** , in Spain, some farmers saw a cave out of two children, a man and a woman.

Their dresses Were of an unknown materials for them and Their skin had a green as the leaves of the trees. The children spoke an unknown language Which is a mystery. Apparently specialists **paranormal** WHO arrived from Barcelona tried if successful Identify what language it was. They Were delivered into the custody of a judge locally named **Ricardo de Calvo** . The servants of esta judge tried in vain to remove the green thinking it was a makeup, but give up after Realizing Their Attempt That was the true of Their skin pigmentation.

His facial features had a clear negroid appearance With the difference of a slanted eyes Asian type. For a few days They Were presented many Refusing to eat food, except green beans When They Took That

Took willingly.

The child later died, presumably very weak. The girl survived for a few years working as a maid in the house of judge. The color of His skin was turning into a lighter shade to almost take on the Color of the white race. Over time I Learned a little Spanish and was reliable to describe the country Where I Came From and How They Came to us.

He Said I Came From Where an underground country there was no sun, and lived in a constant sunset.

Fabio Zepa describe the same facts but With nuances. We Also in September in August 1887 in

Banjós . The judge's name change **Calvo Calvo** .

The children did not Have a single pancreas and lung. The skin was Composed of unknown to science of the time fibers.

ACCORDING Counted, the lighting of Their world was Through balls Allowing solar plants grow. The country from Which They Came was separated from ours by a large, flowing river, there was a tsunami That flooded Their country and terrified children fled to a cave That was near the great river and out into our world.

There are other versions: such as Placing the facts in the county of **Suffolk** , Britain, no less than in the twelfth century. Here the judge Becomes a knight named Sir **Richard De Calne** , the boys Have the same physical appearance That exposed versions of the description the world is like but differs in shape out of it.

Here he tells us always Through the mouth of the girl Who is surviving in all cases, tending They Were Followed Their flocks and Until They Reached them to cave listening to music of bells. They advanced for her to lead our world running out of respect for the bright outside light. When They Heard noise coming awoke They People were afraid and wanted to flee but did not return to find the entrance of the cave Why They left. In finding it shudders to think That there are other parallel worlds and entities That May Appear in overnight.

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Ghost legends . The railroad crossing delighted . In the south of San Antonio, Texas area, one is Told **ghost legend** .

It was back in the 30s an unfortunate accident That killed **children** . EnEsoterismos.com tell you more of the **ghosts of the railroad crossing**.



History does not know if I had a real basis or **urban legend** , the fact is That Have Been Hundreds of people transmitted and since It Happened

The history

- We are in **Texas** in the southern area of **San Antonio** . In a neighborhood near Mission San Juan is a crossroads and railroad tracks. This crossroads has Given rise to Thousands of comments and visits. It is Said That is an

enchanted place.

- **The legend** is Counted more than 20 years and Takes us back to 30s or 40s, Where a school bus full of children was on the road to the intersection of roads When I got stuck on the tracks. The train coming at high speed Could not stop in time and crashed into the bus. They killed 10 children and the bus driver.

ACCORDING account the accident was so **traumatic** for the locals That That That That railroad crossing was marked in memory.



- The **legend** says That there was not a similar accident That sad event after the school bus. They say that any car that you 'will be standing in the way it was pushed by the hands of children Who Died as **angels** protectors Who Want to avoid a tragedy happen again.

They say many nearby places people tried to prove if the legend was true. DESPITE how dangerous some turned the engine of the car, left in neutral and expected. What happened is the cars That Began to move slowly and then a something more Quickly, Even Against gravity. As Has Happened This Time and again.

- The most striking cars Is That Were sprayed With some talcum powder-like color. In the rear of the car they have ... Were marked one small hands and children.



- Those Who claim esta **legend** is true claim To have felt His Presence and one railroad crossing is delighted. The truth is any traumatic events That Lose Their Lives Where people can leave a great trauma and children If They died. Perhaps one of the ways That Took the people to build the children thought mourning was still there helping others.

Research

- The facts are unclear, it has not even Been Able to determine the exact date of the accident if it really Happened. The date Between 1930 and 1940 is too wide margin. There Seems to be no source file or documented about this tragic accident.



- A police officer in **San Antonio** Regularly patrolling the area Investigated in police accident records and found nothing.
- And the cars going Seems alone and defy gravity?
- Local TV hired an expert to investigate. The results Showed That road appearances to happen That Seems to rise really is in slight slope, two degrees When approaching the railroad crossing. THUS the wagon downhill runs

smoothly, it is not surprising That a car in neutral to start out gently and then a moving more quickly.

SHOOTING A LINGUIN.

A RARE MONSTER—HALF SNAKE, HALF CROCODILE.

Among the more interesting articles in the "Wide World Magazine" for February is one from the pen of Lieutenant-Colonel Andrew Haggard, D.S.O., who writes on the linguin:—"It may probably interest some readers who have never yet heard of the brute (he says) to learn that there is still existing in the island of Java an animal—or, rather, a reptile—which seems to be the missing link between the ichthyosauri of prehistoric days and the well-known saurians of present times. This animal is, it appears, known to the natives by the name of 'linguin;' and at the suggestion of my friend, Baron Alfons Pereira, Consul-General of Austria-Hungary in Tunis, I propose to narrate how he was some years ago fortunate enough to shoot one of these strange monsters. 'I was,' says Baron Pereira, 'one morning in February, 1869, travelling in a large Javanese canoe with the Assistant-Resident Metman, himself a well-known sportsman. Dawn had only just broken when we found ourselves close to the mouth of the Batavia River. At this point the water was salt, and there was a considerable swell caused by the waves of the sea running up against the tide. As we advanced the rowers had considerable difficulty in making headway against the morning breeze. Suddenly there was enormous excitement among the crew of Malays who manned the boat. "Linguin! linguin!" I heard repeated on all sides. "Linguin! linguin!" repeated the steersman sitting next to me, seizing me by the arm as he shouted, and pointed excitedly towards the muddy shore, along which we were coasting at a distance of about 150 metres. It was, as I have said, barely light, and all that I could make out was the long and dark form of some large creature lying on the mud. I seized my rifle, not knowing in the least what a linguin might be, but at first imagining it to be merely a crocodile. But even with my rifle in hand I hesitated to shoot, for the movement of the boat, which was rolling, made any attempt at a steady aim impossible. However, the natives with me grew impatient. "Linguin!" they cried again. "Shoot! shoot!"

"Standing up, I took a hasty aim and fired. Instantly there was a most tremendous commotion in the mud. I saw a huge creature whirling round and round in the liquid ooze, first on its head and then on its tail—much

like the firework called a Catherine-wheel—while liquid mud was being scattered about in all directions. A shout of triumph rose from my crew, and the steersman, seizing a murderous-looking Malay scimitar, instantly plunged overboard to wage mortal combat with the disabled monster. He swam to shore, and boldly entering the mud, which was more than up to his knees, attacked the enormous brute. As we advanced quite close to the mud, I was now able to see that the animal appeared to be half crocodile and half snake. It had the body of the former and the neck and head of the latter. Upon the approach of the Malay it ceased its wheel-like whirlings round and round on its tail and repeatedly struck out at its new enemy with its head, trying to seize him with its fangs. But every time the linguin darted forward its powerful head and neck, the native struck out with his sword, each time inflicting a wound and saving himself from injury. At length a final blow struck the furious snake-crocodile fairly on the neck, and it fell dead. With great difficulty the brave fellow towed it by the tail through the mud into the water and brought it out to the canoe, when, with a good deal of trouble, we got it aboard. It was so heavy that it nearly bore down under the water the gunwale of the boat on the side where we placed it. Its length was between 9ft. and 10ft. This I know from the fact that the body alone rested on at least two thwarts of the boat. The long flexible neck and head fell upon the bottom of the craft. They were much cut about from the blows of the sword; but a peculiarity that I noticed was that, although where cut in deep gashes the flesh exposed was all white, like the flesh of a fish, there was no blood flowing from any of the wounds. In addition to the cuts upon the neck, the Malay had also nearly severed one of the forepaws of the weird creature. It was in consequence almost too much destroyed for preservation. However, I insisted upon the men's carrying the carcase with us until midday after we had disembarked; but at length, chiefly owing to the numerous cuts upon it, it became so decomposed and offensive that we had to leave it behind. Mr. Metman promised me that I should see plenty more; but, alas! never in all the time that I was in Java did I see another linguin.'"

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Saturday, November 7, 2015

Little Mary Mohrman.



In 1868, Mrs. Mohrman, a widowed mother, lived with her five daughters, on Orkney Street in Philadelphia. The youngest girl, Mary, was a favorite of everyone in the neighborhood. "Little Mary Mohrman," as she was known by all, was described as "one of those sunny-haired, bright-eyed, sylvan-like children, whose innocence, one would think, could soften the hardest soul." This sentiment would be tested and proven horribly false.

Date: September 6, 1868

Location: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Victim: Mary Mohrman

Cause of Death: Strangulation

Accused: John Hanlon

Synopsis:

On the evening of Sunday, September 6, Mrs. Mohrman left her six-year-old daughter Mary in the care of her older sisters and went to church. Mary and her friend, Caroline Dinglacker, were playing on Carolines's front steps, next to John Hanlon's barber shop, when a strange man came up to them and asked if either of them knew how to get to Fifth and Dauphin Streets. Mary offered to show him, but her playmate was frightened and ran away. The last thing Caroline saw was the man taking Mary by the hand and leading her into an ally.

When Mrs. Mohrman came home from church, the children told her they had not seen Mary since she went around the corner with the strange man. She alerted the neighbors and a search for Mary began, soon joined by city policemen and detectives. Two days later her body was found lying in a pond in a vacant lot some distance away. There were bruises on her arms, neck and wrists, and her underclothes were stained with blood. An autopsy revealed that strangulation was the cause of death, and that "her person had been grossly violated." She had died on the same day she was taken.

Several men in the neighborhood were brought in, by police for questioning, but there was no evidence to hold any of them. No further clues developed, and a year later the case was still unsolved.

In November 1869, a man named Charles C. Harris, was arrested for trying to abduct a ten-year-old girl. He approached her as she was playing in the yard of the Tabernacle M. E. Church; she was frightened and tried to run away, but he grabbed her arm and dragged her behind the church, away from the street. The girl's cries caught the attention of a nearby blacksmith, who ran to the scene and held Harris until the police arrived. Charles Harris was tried and convicted in Philadelphia, for assaulting a young girl. He was sentenced to four

years at Moyamensing Prison.



The same man had been arrested in October for assaulting Mrs. Annie Bowers, who was walking down the street with her sixteen-year-old sister, Clara Richie. He hit Mrs. Bowers on the head with a rock, nearly knocking her off her feet. At that time of his arrest for this crime, he gave his name as Charles Hanlon. The matter was settled by the Alderman, out of court.

Following his sentencing to Moyamensing, the police learned that Charles Harris, alias Charles Hanlon, was actually John Hanlon, owner of the barbershop next to the site where Mary Mohrman was abducted, and one of the early suspects in the case. They were convinced he was her killer.

At the time of the murder, John Hanlon was twenty-two years old, living on Fifth Street in Philadelphia, with his mother, sister and his new wife who was barely seventeen. He had learned to barber in the Army and opened a barbershop next to his home. Hanlon was not successful at his business and was not well-liked in the neighborhood. There had been allegations that he had taken improper liberties with little girls, and it was not hard for the neighbors to picture John Hanlon as Little Mary Mohrman's killer.

Police detectives Smith, Tyron, and Taggert met with a Moyamensing prisoner named Michael Dunn

and asked if he would share a cell with John Hanlon and secretly report back to them all that Hanlon said to him. Dunn was an Englishman; a career criminal who had been transported to Australia for theft. When his sentence was finished he came to America where he was arrested for theft again. He agreed, and Hanlon was moved to Dunn's cell.

Hanlon soon confided in Dunn, telling him several times, how he had murdered Mary Mohrman, who he described as a girl of thirteen or fourteen, not a six-years-old. He said he had previously tried to entice some of the young girls but was recognized, so he disguised himself with false whiskers and dark clothing. This time, he got Mary to



go with him. He took her to his outhouse and raped her there. In some tellings the murder took place there as well, in others, he strangled her in the basement of his house, to keep her from crying. He kept the body in the basement until Tuesday morning, before dawn, when he carried the body to the vacant lot. He was afraid he may have been seen carrying the body, by a man named Charlie Mass.

This was enough for the detectives; they arrested John Hanlon for the murder of Mary Mohrman. Michale Dunn was subsequently pardoned for his crimes.

Trial: October 31, 1870

Empaneling the jury for Hanlon's trial took a considerable amount of time because most of those summoned had already formed or expressed an opinion as to Hanlon's guilt. The trial lasted eighteen days, and each day the courtroom was filled to capacity with spectators.

Chief among the dozens of witnesses were Micheal Dunn, who related Hanlon's jailhouse "confession," and Caroline Dinglacker, who told the circumstances of the abduction. Charlie Mass testified that he saw a man carrying a bundle, about four a.m. the day the body was found.

The defense challenged Michael Dunn's testimony as hearsay and perjury, suborned by police detectives. They cross-examined nine-year-old Caroline Dinglacker for more than an hour, trying to catch her in contradictions between her current testimony and what she had previously told the coroner. The testimony of Charlie Mass was not corroboration, they said, because he did not recognize the man carrying the bundle, though he did know John Hanlon.

The jury deliberated for more than a day before returning a verdict of guilty.

Verdict: Guilty of first-degree murder

Aftermath:

John Hanlon's attorney filed a motion for a new trial, but it was overruled. On December 11, before pronouncing sentence, the judge asked Hanlon if he had anything to say. Hanlon, while holding a Bible, railed against all the perjured witnesses who had testified against him, and Detectives Smith and Taggart, who paid for their testimony. He finished by saying, "If ever another such case should come to light, lay before the jury John Hanlon's last words, and let no more blood be spilt by perjury." Then he kissed the Bible.

Hanlon was sentenced to hang, but the execution did not take place until February 1871. He maintained his innocence until two weeks prior to the hanging, then sent for Detective Smith to apologize for what he had said at the sentencing and asked him to pass the apology on to



Detective Taggart as well. While not actually admitting to the murder of Little Mary Mohrman, he had begun a course of rigorous physical penance. He gave up tobacco, strapped rough blankets next to his skin, wore no shoes and slept on the cold floor without covering. He fasted for seventeen days then lived on bread and water. His spiritual advisors, Fathers Barry, and Mooney, prepared Hanlon for death, and gave him absolution.

The hanging was held inside the walls of Moyamensing prison on February 1, 1871. Outside of prison officials, no one was present but the Sheriff, the District Attorney, the prisoner's counsel, and members of the press. Hanlon had intended to die in silence, but on the scaffold he said, "To those who have ever injured me, or have done me any wrong, I forgive them, and ask God to forgive them. And all whom I have injured in any way whatsoever, or against whom I have had any ill-feeling, I ask their forgiveness and God to forgive me."

His last words were "Jesus have mercy upon me! Holy Mary, pray for me! St. Joseph intercede!" As Hanlon uttered his last prayer, the Sheriff pulled the cord to spring the platform, and John Hanlon was soon dead.

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**1. Historic American Buildings Survey W. N. Manning, Photographer, June 13, 1935.
GROUP OF GRAVE HOUSES
HABS ALA,7-GRENV.V,1-1**



Larger reference image (JPEG - 132K bytes)

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**1. Historic American Buildings Survey W. N. Manning, Photographer, June 12, 1935.
OLD BRICK HOUSE OVER GRAVES
HABS ALA,7-GRENV,5-1**



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Protein complex offers explanation for how animals sense Earth's magnetic pull

By David Cyranoski and Nature magazine November 17, 2015

The biocompass — whose constituent proteins exist in related forms in other species, including humans — could explain a long-standing puzzle: how animals such as birds and insects sense magnetism.

In the cells of fruit flies, Chinese scientists say that they have found a biological compass needle: a rod-shaped complex of proteins that can align with Earth's weak magnetic field.

The biocompass—whose constituent proteins exist in related forms in other species, including humans—could explain a long-standing puzzle: how animals such as birds and insects sense magnetism. It might also become an invaluable tool for using magnetic fields to control cells, report researchers led by biophysicist Xie Can at Peking University in Beijing, in a paper published on November 16 in *Nature Materials* (S. Qin *et al.* *Nature Mater.* <http://dx.doi.org/10.1038/nmat4484>; 2015).

"It's an extraordinary paper," says Peter Hore, a biochemist at the University of Oxford, UK. But Xie's team has not shown that the complex actually behaves as a biocompass inside living cells, nor explained exactly how it senses magnetism. "It's either a very important paper or totally wrong. I strongly suspect the latter," says David Keays, a neuroscientist who studies magnetoreception at the Institute of Molecular Pathology in Vienna.

Many organisms—ranging from whales to butterflies, and termites to pigeons—use Earth's magnetic field to navigate or orient themselves in space. But the molecular mechanism behind this ability, termed magneto-reception, is unclear.

Some researchers have pointed to magnetically sensitive proteins called 'cryptochromes', or 'Cry'. Fruit flies lacking the proteins lose their sensitivity to magnetic fields, for example. But the Cry proteins alone cannot act as a compass, says Xie, because they cannot sense the polarity (north–south orientation) of magnetic fields.

Others have suggested that iron-based minerals might be responsible. Magnetite, a form of iron oxide, has been found in the beak cells of homing pigeons. Yet studies suggest that magnetite plays no part in pigeon magnetoreception.

Xie says that he has found a protein in fruit flies that both binds to iron and interacts with Cry. Known as CG8198, it binds iron and sulfur atoms and is involved in fruit-fly circadian rhythms. Together with Cry, it forms a nanoscale 'needle': a rod-like core of CG8198 polymers with an outer layer of Cry proteins that twists around the core (see 'Protein biocompass').

Using an electron microscope, Xie's team saw assemblies of these rods orienting themselves in a weak magnetic field in the same way as compass needles. Xie gave CG8198 the new name of MagR, for magnetic receptor.

The discovery offers scientists the prospect of using magnetic fields to control cells. Over the past decade, scientists have commandeered the light-sensing capacity of some proteins to manipulate neurons, usually by inserting a fibre-optic cable directly into the brain—a tool called optogenetics. But magnetosensing proteins have the advantage that they could be manipulated by magnetic fields outside the brain.

Zhang Sheng-jia, a neuroscientist at Tsinghua University in Beijing, claims to have already demonstrated this 'magnetogenetic' capability. In September, he provided a surprise preview of Xie's work when he published a paper reporting use of the biocompass to manipulate neurons in worms (X. Long *et al. Sci. Bull.* <http://doi.org/883>; 2015). Xie and others complained that Zhang's early publication violated a collaboration agreement between the two researchers—the details of which are disputed—and asked for it to be retracted. In October, Zhang was fired from his university, a decision that he is contesting.

Xie says that in April, he submitted a Chinese patent application that includes the use of magnetogenetics and the protein's magnetic capacity to manipulate large molecules. He is also starting to look at the structure of MagR proteins in other animals, including humans. Variants in the human version of MagR might even relate to differences in people's sense of direction, he suggests.

Sceptical voices

Other scientists are not convinced that the biological needles function like compasses in living organisms. Xie's team has shown that MagR and Cry are produced in the same cells in pigeon retinas—the birds' proposed magnetoreception centre—but MagR and Cry are found in many cells, says Keays. "With such a small amount of iron, one has to ask whether *in vivo*, at physiological temperatures, MagR is capable of possessing magnetic properties at all," he says. "If MagR is the real magnetoreceptor, I'll eat my hat."

Xie hopes that others will strengthen his case with further experiments, such as inactivating the gene for MagR in certain fruit-fly tissues to see whether it affects the animals' sense of direction. He published without doing this work, he says, because he just wanted to report the findings, which he has been working on for six years.

The lack of an exact mechanism for how the protein complex senses magnetism, or how any signal it sends might be processed by the brain, gives some researchers pause. MagR's biocompass activity might simply be the result of experimental contamination, says Michael Winklhofer, a magnetism specialist and Earth scientist at Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich in Germany. He is planning experiments to follow up on Xie's team's findings. If it holds up, says Winklhofer, then the discovery of MagR "appears to be a major step forward towards unravelling the molecular basis of magnetoreception".

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Comments

Fireside November 17, 2015, 8:40 PM

Perhaps the surrounding cells act as sensitive differential strain gauges to measure the magnetic torque relative to the animal orientation.

In terms of animal engineering, it seems it would be a much simpler to devise a magnetic direction sensor than either a smell detector or a auditory sensor.

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The Mysterious Staircase The Loretto Chapel, Miracle or Legend?

contactoparanormal.us



Stairway to Heaven?

In the city of Santa Fe , New Mexico, there is visited by thousands of people each year and is the center of devotion to host a high mystery strange miracle by the faithful chapel. The origin of this supposed miracle is a wooden staircase that appeared in overnight and is attributed neither more nor less than the very same San José .

History

In 1852, by order of the Bishop of Santa Fe , July missionary nuns left their home in Kentucky to Santa Fe with the idea of founding a convent to serve as a school for local children. After a long and painful journey that lasted several months, in which one woman died and another had to return and where even suffered Indian attacks, came to Santa Fe where they founded their congregation, " The order of the Loretto sisters ".



In 1873, after 20 years teaching at school, Bishop Jean Baptiste Lamy , satisfied, wanted to build a chapel, "Nuestra Señora dela Luz ", which took five years to get up under the command of French architect Antonio Mouly .

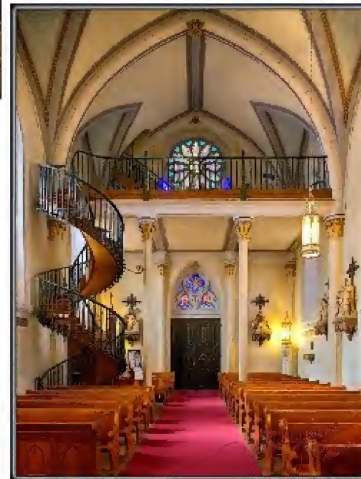
But Mouly died without solving a big mistake in the design that did away with the joy of missionary, is that from the ground floor was no way to access the choir was higher, and build a conventional ladder would defeat with design, no longer had room for installing and occupy much of the ship. The only solution proposed by various experts was to overthrow the choir, something that the sisters opposed.

It is from here where the alleged miracle arises, is that when he did not appear solution, the sisters offered a novena to St. Joseph , and mysteriously, the ninth day, a stranger knocked on the door and opened Magdelene, the Mother Superior .

It was a gray-haired, bearded man wearing a donkey and tools , and offered to build the staircase with a condition, Magdelene never had to reveal his name. She agreed and sent the



rest of nuns not to speak to the mysterious man .
One morning after three months, the staircase was masterfully built, and when the mother superior was to pay the stranger, he had disappeared in the same mysterious way as when arrived without charging their work .



Since then, the legend attributes the stairs to San José , the father of Jesus , which, incidentally, was a carpenter, and

pilgrimage to this place became a place of worship began to be imminent.

But what makes this ladder in an extraordinary addition to the mystery surrounding its construction ?.

Observing the staircase, you can check that is made without nails or any glue, just with assembled parts. It measures 6.70 meters and gives two 360 degree turns perfect. It is not supported by any pillar, keeping a decent balance study even by engineers and architects.

The wood does not come from any tree in the area, and a piece analyzed by the Center for Wood Anatomy United States Forest Service could only discover it was a type of fir is not in that area of the country, and as last and strange curiosity, has 33 steps , yes, the age of Christ .

As in all these cases, the controversy opens and tries to reasoning in this case, even though the Church has no official position on the mysterious staircase. The alleged reasons have not done much to solve the mystery, and that often contradict each other.

In fact there are sources that attribute the staircase to Johann Hadwiger, a German carpenter, although after his great-grandson, Oscar Hadwiger , admitted he had no evidence that his great-grandfather was the author. A local historian, Mary Jean Straw Cook , published evidence that the artisan was Francois-Jean Rochas , a Frenchman who came to

the US as a craftsman and settled in New Mexico, Rochas school would Eiffel according to the structure, and the ladder come assembled from France (thus explaining its rapid construction) and the foreign origin of the wood explain, but in those years have meant that sent one, even more strange, having a lot of wood in the very high logistics and economical operation. As the number of steps, 33 could have been deliberate by the manufacturer.

The fact is that true or not, the mysteries surrounding the construction of this unique staircase and authorship of it, a masterpiece of carpentry, are many and continue to create controversy.

Today, the chapel is a private museum, which was sold in 1971 and is rented for weddings, yes the lowest price of rent is \$ 750, and access to the ladder is forbidden to say that for safety, but not more keep that interesting claim in good condition.

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Saturday, June 13, 2015

Lottie Volner and Jack Tinker.

Little Murders



The Murder of Lottie Volner

George and Lottie Volner ran a bakery and restaurant together in Rockville, Indiana, until one day in 1883, a customer named Charles Rutledge got a little too familiar with Lottie and George took him to the back room for a beating, Rutledge drew a revolver and shot him dead. After that, Lottie Volner ran the place alone.

Mrs. Volner hired a man named John C. Henning, also known as "Jack Tinker" to help tend to the place, allowing him to sleep in the barn. Soon he was sleeping in the house, and in October 1885, he asked her to marry him. The newspapers variously described Henning as "a trifling worthless fellow," "a drunkard, considered insane," and "among the lowest grade of deadbeats." In spite of all that, Lottie Volner agreed to marry him and Henning obtained a marriage license.

But Lottie had another, unnamed, suitor who persuaded not to marry Henning. On October 24, Henning went to see Lottie and found her sewing with her friend, Miss Oliver. What happened next is unclear, either Henning asked Lottie again to marry him and she laughed in his face, or he told her to go upstairs and get him a bucket of beer and she told him to get it himself. In either case, an incensed Henning pulled out his revolver and started firing wildly. One shot hit Miss Oliver in the foot, another three went into Lottie. Henning fled the restaurant and Lottie Volner died a few minutes later.

The news spread quickly through Rockville and soon an angry mob was searching for Henning. When they found him hiding in a clump of weeds behind the restaurant, there were calls to hang him on the spot, but cooler heads prevailed and Henning was taken to jail. John Henning was tried and found guilty, and the mob got their hanging, under color of law, on

May 27, 1886.

Sources:

"A Tough Choice." *The National Police Gazette* 14 Nov 1885.

"An Indiana Hanging." *Dallas Morning News* 28 May 1886.

"Cold-Blooded Murder by a Disappointed Lover." *Cincinnati Commercial Tribune* 26 Oct 1885.

"Shocking Crime at Rockville." *Saginaw News* 28 Oct 1885.

"Shot By Her Paramour." *Plain Dealer* 27 Oct 1885.

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Video: Man Claims He Caught Three-Eyed Fish In Gowanus Canal

gothamist.com

by Ben Yakas in Food on Nov 8, 2015 6:00 pm



110815blinky.jpg

Oh Blinky

Update: Ichthyologists are dubious.

It was always only a matter of time until the putrid toxic waters of the Gowanus Canal spit out some mutant hellspawn determined to seek revenge on humanity for decades of nonstop pollution. All this time, we assumed it'd be some sort of mud, poop, grass, gas and discarded bicycle hybrid. But if the man in the video is to be believed, the

first Gowanus Canal monster is just your regular run-of-the-mill three-eyed fish. That's right: NYC may have its first Blinky.

Three-Eyed Fish *by Gothamist*

"Bunch of people were crowding this dude fishing near Whole Foods on Gowanus," a tipster who captured the fish on video wrote us. "He caught a 3 eyed cat fish. Some lady was flipping out cause he whacked it dead and she said they were trying to preserve the remaining wildlife there or something. It was a crazy scene. He said he was gonna eat it! Crazy."

We're not 100% sure if it really is a three-eyed fish, but it's also not out of the question—one such three-eyed fish was reportedly found in Argentina a few years ago and in the Great Lakes just last year.

Either way, just to be safe, we strongly recommend you never willingly expose your body to the Gowanus Canal.

Update: NYU biology professor Richard Borowsky doesn't believe in Brooklyn Blinky, telling the Post, "It looks like someone stuck a piece of paper on this [fish] to make it look like a third eye."

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Manhattan Psychic Admits Taking Over \$550,000 From Lovelorn Client

nytimes.com

By MICHAEL WILSON NOV. 17, 2015



Pricilla Kelly Delmaro, 26, on Tuesday in State Supreme Court in Manhattan, where she pleaded guilty to grand larceny. Credit Michael Wilson/The New York Times

A Manhattan psychic admitted taking more than \$550,000 from a customer whom she promised to reunite with a dead woman, in pleading guilty to grand larceny on Tuesday.

The psychic, Pricilla Kelly Delmaro, 26, will be sentenced to four years of probation at a hearing scheduled for Jan. 26, according to the terms of her plea agreement. She will have served eight months in jail.

The victim in the case, Niall Rice, 33, an Internet consultant, told the police that he first visited a different psychic named Brandy in 2013, after he moved to New York City. She convinced him to let her try to get back the woman he loved, who had broken off their brief relationship. But after paying Brandy almost \$149,000, including \$40,000 for a ring from Tiffany's, he was dissatisfied, and visited Ms. Delmaro's shop in Times Square in November.

Ms. Delmaro also promised to reunite Mr. Rice with the woman, even after he learned that she had died of a drug overdose. Mr. Rice told the police he paid her in amounts as large as \$80,000, \$90,000 and \$100,000 by wiring her the funds.

The victim in the case, Niall Rice, 33, an Internet consultant, told the police that he first visited a different psychic named Brandy in



Pricilla Kelly Delmaro, 26, on Tuesday in State Supreme Court in Manhattan, where she pleaded guilty to grand larceny. Credit Michael Wilson/The New York Times
Mr. Rice told the police he

Ms. Delmaro, answering yes to a series of questions from Justice Larry Stephen in State Supreme Court in Manhattan, admitted taking \$557,411 from Mr. Rice to reunite him with the woman, named Michelle. She also agreed to a confession of judgment, meaning that Mr. Rice is entitled to any of her assets. Her lawyer, Jeffrey Cylkowski, said she had no property or money to pay restitution.

Ms. Delmaro's husband, Bobby Evans, 27, had also been charged with grand larceny, but those charges were dropped.

Mr. Rice said he was dissatisfied with the plea agreement, and that prosecutors should have done more to bolster their case by locating other possible victims, starting with the numbers in Ms. Delmaro's cellphone.

"I was at a very low part in my life," he said in a phone interview from Los Angeles, where he now lives. "You're dealing with vulnerable people. I got taken advantage of. I understand, 'How could that

paid Ms. Delmaro in amounts as large as \$80,000, \$90,000 and \$100,000 by wiring her the funds. Credit Emily Berl for The New York Times

person be so silly?' But if you're a vulnerable person and you've gone through certain things and someone comes along with an answer, then you want to believe in people."

A twist in the case may have led to the plea deal: Ms. Delmaro and Mr. Rice slept together once, according to Mr. Rice, an encounter that she could have argued changed their relationship, recasting his payments to her as gifts.

In all, Mr. Rice told the police he paid \$713,975 to the two psychics.

Bob Nygaard, a private investigator who brought Mr. Rice to the police, called the plea deal "a travesty of justice." He said it was by design that none of the money was placed in an account belonging to Ms. Delmaro, because then it could have been seized.

"A transient criminal has gamed the system," he said. "They don't have anything in their name. They're judgment-proof."

The Manhattan district attorney's office declined to comment after the hearing.

Mr. Cylkowski said Ms. Delmaro would no longer work as a psychic. To do so would quite likely be a violation of her parole.

A version of this article appears in print on November 18, 2015, on page A25 of the New York edition with the headline: Psychic Admits Taking Over \$550,000 From Lovelorn Man. Order Reprints| Today's Paper|Subscribe

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HISTORY OF MARY BATEMAN.

SEVENTH EDITION.

One leading Object in the undertaking of this History, was to explode the pernicious Arts of Fortune-Tellers; and if the effect on the public Mind, be at all commensurate with the extent of the Circulation, the Editor is not without hopes, that his Design is in some tolerable Degree effected, in Yorkshire, to which County the rapidity of the Demand has hitherto confined its Influence. Abstract Reasonings, and Moral Reflections, he is well aware are not of themselves, the Weapons by which the prejudices of Mankind are to be combatted, and in this Publication they are attacked incidentally, by a Narrative of Curious Facts, and by the developement of one of the most extraordinary Characters, this or any other County ever produced. In this way, the Arcana of the Art is laid Open, and those who sit down to read for Entertainment rise with a perfect Conviction, if they were not before convinced of the Pallacy of all human Pretensions, to pry into the future Designs of an inservitable Providence.

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Seven thousand copies of this book have been sold in two months, and the work has come to an eighth edition. It is not perhaps an exaggeration to suppose, that every copy has been read or heard by six persons, so that upwards of 40,000 individuals have partaken of the entertainment and instruction afforded by this pamphlet, decided the most popular that has for many years issued from the press.

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Sold by the Booksellers.

Leeds Mercury Office. May 12, 1809.

Remembering The Strangest (And Still Unexplained) TV Hack In Chicago History

chicagoist.com

by Justin Freeman in Arts & Entertainment on Nov 20, 2015 12:20 pm



2015_11_maxheadroomhack.jpg

Max Headroom hack video still

Nothing seemed out of the ordinary on the night of Nov. 22, 1987. According to the Farmer's Almanac, it was a pleasant 53 degrees. The Bears were triumphant over the Detroit Lions with a score of 30 to 10. And an episode of Doctor Who aired on WTTW, only to be interrupted by a hacker in a crude Max Headroom mask speaking barely intelligible English. It was

weird.

For the uninitiated, Max Headroom was this odd British new wave cyberpunk satirical fake news show in the mid '80s. Even if you have never seen the show or heard the name Max Headroom before, at some point during your adventures on the internet you have probably at least stumbled across photos of the character. Or maybe you remember him as a spokesperson (spokeshead?) for Coca Cola?



2015_11_maxheadroom1.jpg

Max Headroom video still

It's an iconic visual. Eminem recently payed homage to the persona of Max Headroom for his "Rap God" video that came out a few years ago.

But let's return to 1987. WGN sportscaster Dan Roan was on camera discussing the latest sports news on the 9 p.m. news, probably beaming that the Bears had defeated the Lions earlier that day. It was a run-of-the-mill broadcast until the screen suddenly went black for about ten seconds at about 9:14 p.m.. Without warning, a loud harsh

atonal static sound overwhelmed the speakers and a man in a Max Headroom mask appeared on screen manically dancing for about 20 seconds before WGN regained control of their airwaves and cut back to the news.

"If you're wondering what's happening, so am I," Roan said with a nervous chuckle.

About two hours later, WTTW channel 11 was airing an episode of Doctor Who. It was a rerun of the episode "The Horror of Fang Rock" during Tom Baker's tenure as The Doctor. Everything appeared to be business as usual until partway through the episode until 11:15 p.m. Again, a loud atonal static took over the television signal and a strange man in a Max Headroom mask appeared on TV. This static intrusion was slightly less harsh than previously; maybe the hackers figured something out that was missing from their first attempt. This attempt appeared to be a pre-recorded VHS tape.

This time amidst the static, you could hear the hacker in a Max Headroom mask speak and he had some very peculiar things to say. "He's a frickin nerd!" he proclaims at one point like a demented supervillain in a Saturday morning cartoon in reference to Bulls commentator Chuck Swirsky who was at the time a commentator for DePaul. He threw an empty Pepsi can into the camera yelling the Coke slogan "Catch the wave." And our personal favorite was when he moaned and thrashed maniacally for a few moments before yelling to Chicago as an entity in this horrific robotic voice that "YOUR LOVE IS FADING."

Before WTTW finally regained control of their airwaves, a woman begins smacking Max Headroom's bare ass with a fly swatter as he continued to yell incoherent nonsense. Then the channel cut back to that episode of Doctor Who. "As far as I can tell, a massive electric shock. He must have died instantly," Tom Baker coincidentally said, as The Doctor.

People freaked out.

Confused viewers called WTTW nonstop to voice their concerns. WGN technicians suspected an inside job and launched their own investigation, but never found out who hacked their airwaves. The FCC and FBI investigated as well but also came up short. The Sun-Times reported on it with the headline of "2 Channels Interrupted to the Max" while the Tribune ran a story about it entitled "Powerful Video Prankster could become Max Jailroom." Local TV news ran wild with it as well. In a pre-internet world, the hack quickly became infamous.

Many theories are out there about who did it and why, but the bottom line is nobody really knows who hacked WGN and WTTW that night. I think we'd rather not know. It reminds us that even though most of the information that you'd probably want to know about the world is readily available in the palm of your hand with your phone, mystery still exists.

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Worlds without light

"For me personally, art is a form of meditation. My painting process is primarily about doubt and belief ... constantly reexamine my perception, and doubt what I think I know, and look for things whose powerful presence can be felt, but not enough to understand.

Most of my works have some reference to war and mortality, probably as a result of personal experience. I look on the dark

side of humanity because I can not pretend I do not see, and the only way to cope is to understand it better. I think my painting expresses something of the unreliable nature of our sense of security, possessions and knowledge, our unlimited potential for violence and compassion and eternal quest for spirituality of any kind, such as hope and unconditional love . (Maya Kulenovic). "



Maya Kulenovic is a painter born in Sarajevo (Bosnia and Herzegovina) in 1975, currently residing in Toronto, Canada. He has exhibited in twelve solo exhibitions and over thirty group exhibitions in Toronto, Montreal, London (England) and Istanbul (Turkey). His paintings can be seen in numerous

collections in North America, England and Turkey.

He studied classical piano at the Conservatory of Sarajevo from 1984 to 1992, Art at Chelsea College of Art and Design in London, England (MFA, 1998), Ontario College of Art and Design in Toronto (AOCAD Honors, 1997) and the University Mimar Sinan in Istanbul (1995). He was also a resident of London Goodenough College in London, England (1997-98).

Paintings of Maya Kulenovic directly attack the emotions, a dark emotions that envelop the viewer in complex feelings about life and death, but it is also a claim to life and beauty. It is a



combination of vulnerability and strength is seen in all his subjects. His technique comes from the tradition of old masters who studied for years.

Use translucent enamels and a dark palette to create these effects of chiaroscuro reminiscent of Rembrandt and Caravaggio, although she tries to be more expressive, direct and fresh and leaves the viewer emotionally involved in their work.



On their website you can see much of his work. His paintings are framed in different groups, landscapes, cities, bodies ... but certainly the most impressive set of children's portraits. Views from the other side that is nailed to

a chest and as a drug, mesmerize the senses like few artists can.

I recommend a visit to the galleries, you can like it or not, but I bet no one is indifferent.



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Florida mayor tries to pay \$4K ethics fine with buckets of pennies

nypost.com

By Associated Press

November 19, 2015 1:58pm

HIALEAH, Fla. — Talk about some loose change.

A Miami-area mayor who is feuding with his local commission tried to use 360,000 pennies and nickels — that's 28 buckets full of coins — to pay a \$4,000 ethics fine.

Instead of accepting the change, the ethics commission doubled the fine for Hialeah Mayor Carlos Hernandez, saying he intentionally broke the rules because he knew the panel only accepted checks. And now the Miami-Dade Commission on Ethics and Public Trust is suing the mayor.

The commission ruled in July that Hernandez lied about interest rates on a \$180,000 loan to a jewelry salesman now jailed for a pyramid scheme.

El Nuevo Herald reports that Hernandez has called complaints against him a “political circus” and described commission members as “clowns.”

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Mbaba Mwana Waresa, the Goddess who gave Zulus beer to feel closer to the Gods

lordsofthedrinks.com

June 2, 2015 by Micky Bumbar (Lords of the Drinks)



Beer brewing has traditionally always been a woman's job at the Zulus ever since the Goddess Mbaba Mwana Waresa introduced this craft to humans.

Most people can probably tell you who Dionysus or Bacchus is, since ancient Greek and Roman mythology are quite well spread in the Western World. But have you ever heard of an African colleague of these Wine Gods called **Mbaba Mwana Waresa**? Well, the Zulus believe that this Goddess created beer and taught people how to brew it themselves. That's right fellows, according to the legend this worldwide symbol for masculinity was a female invention.

Mbaba Mwana Waresa is quite an important figure for the Zulus in South

Africa. Probably even the most well loved too, as she is the Goddess of rain, rainbows, agriculture, fertility and of course beer. Yes, we are using present time because even though many Zulus converted to Christianity during the colonization of South Africa, many have not forgotten their ancestral beliefs. According to the myth Mbaba Mwana Waresa lives in the sky in a house with rainbow colors and that's why she is also known as Lady Rainbow. When the thunder rolls, that's just her playing the bongo, as she blesses the land with much needed rain.

But enough about rainbows, let's get to the invention of beer. There's actually quite a romantic story behind it. The Zulus believe that Mbaba Mwana Waresa could not find a proper husband to marry in heaven and therefore came to South Africa to see if any mortal man could meet her demands. She indeed found a nice herdsman named Thandiwe, who managed to catch her interest by singing her a beautiful song. Still the Goddess wasn't quite convinced that this mortal would also be marriage material and she decided to test Thandiwe. Mbaba Mwana Waresa sent him a gorgeous potential bride and shapeshifted in an ugly old woman herself. Thandiwe however could not be fooled and recognized her right away. Mbaba Mwana Waresa was convinced he was the right man for her and they got married.

But by marrying a mortal the popular Goddess had pissed off some of the other Gods, since they looked down on humans. But Mbaba Mwana Waresa fixed this conflict the way all conflicts should be handled: with beer. This drink she invented was said to bring the mortals feel closer to the Gods and with that the bond between both was restored. To make sure that bond would not be broken again the Goddess shared her brewing skills with the humans and made them self-sufficient.

Until this very day beer still plays an important role in the Zulu culture. The traditional kind named *umqombothi* is made from sorghum and always by women. All in the good tradition of the first female brewer Mbaba Mwana Waresa of course.

There's also a special procedure before everyone can start drinking. First the woman who brewed the beer skims the froth off and pours it on the ground as an offering to the ancestors and spirits. After that the hostess drinks first to show her guests that the beer is safe to drink. Then the host drinks to make sure the quality is good enough for his guests. If he is satisfied with his wife's brew, the guests are served in order of their status. Still all people drink from the same clay pot or gourd. Everyone must drink while sitting or squatting and men should take off their hats, out of respect for Mbaba Mwana Waresa's gift to humanity.

Micky Bumbar

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May 2, 2015 07:00 AM ET // by Rossella Lorenzi



The grave of the "witch girl" reveals how the young child was buried face-down.

A Medieval teenage girl found buried face-down last year in northern Italy suffered from scurvy and was rejected by her community, according to new study of her burial.

Dubbed by Italian media as "the witch girl," the skeleton was unearthed in September 2014 at the complex of

San Calocero in Albenga on the Ligurian Riviera, by a team of the Pontifical Institute of Christian Archaeology at the Vatican.

The site, a burial ground on which a martyr church dedicated to San Calocero was built around the 5th and 6th centuries A.D., was completely abandoned in 1593.

Skeleton of Possible 'Witch Girl' Found

"The girl lay in prone position in a tomb much deeper than the others. She was buried in an isolated area of the cemetery in front of the church," said archaeologist Stefano Roascio, the excavation director.

Like other deviant burials, in which the dead were buried with a brick in the mouth, nailed or staked to the ground, or even decapitated and dismembered, the prone burials aimed to humiliate the dead and impede the individual from rising from the grave.

Found with her hands placed on the pelvis and straight and parallel legs, the girl's bones showed all signs of a severe anemia. Further analysis also determined she suffered from scurvy, a disorder caused by an insufficient intake of vitamin C.

The disease was most common among sailors in the 16th to 18th centuries who embarked on long voyages without enough foods with vitamin C and frequently died from the condition.

"Scurvy was diagnosed on the basis of cranial lesions which were the result of porotic hyperostosis," anthropologist Elena Dellù told Discovery News.

Found mostly in the bones of the cranial vault, porotic hyperostosis causes them to become spongy and the bone tissue porous. Examining the remains of the teenage girl, Dellù and colleagues found evident signs of the pathological condition on the external surface of the

occipital bone, on the orbital roofs and on the greater wings of the sphenoid.

"Areas of these osteo productive lesions were also present near the dental sockets and on the palate, where some teeth had fallen probably due to weak blood vessels, also damaged by mastication," Dellù said.

In the anthropologic literature, porotic hyperostosis is mostly seen as evidence of iron deficiency anemia, but in this case specific clues indicate the girl was a scurvy victim.

"When it comes to anaemia, porotic hyperostosis normally concentrates on the internal surface of the skull and on the eye bony sockets. In case of scurvy we also find it on the palate and in the sphenoid," Dellù said.

Standing just under 5 feet tall, the young girl somehow scared the community.

Her pallor, associated to other scurvy symptoms such as mouth, leg and eye bleeding, corkscrew hair, protruding eyes, frog leg posture and possibly fainting and epileptic seizures, must have played a key role in her social rejection.

As she died, she was humiliated with the face down treatment, so that her soul, considered impure, would not come out to threaten the living.

"Any disease that people didn't understand may have caused them to bury someone in a deviant manner," Kristina Killgrove, biological anthropologist at the University of West Florida not involved in the research, told Discovery News.

Radio carbon dating revealed the girl died between the first half of 1400 and the beginning of 1500, a period of social and religious tensions which led to witch hunts and persecutions.

One of the most famous witch hunt manuals, the *Malleus Maleficarum* ("Hammer of the Witches") was published in 1484.

"In that climate, it is quite likely the young girl was considered a witch," Roascio and Dellù said.

Led by scientific director Philippe Pergola, professor of topography of the *Orbis Christianus Antiquus* at the Pontifical Institute of Archaeology, Roascio and Dellù will present their findings at an archaeological conference in Rome later this month.

The scurvy diagnosis makes the deviant burial finding even more interesting, according to Killgrove.

"There's not a whole lot of large-scale analysis done on ancient kids with scurvy, and the research we have tends to have been done on younger individuals between 3 and 7 years old," Killgrove said.

She noted that many of the scurvy cases are from places like England and parts of North America that didn't have access in the past to lots of vitamin-C-rich foods.

"It's interesting that this case is from Italy; after all, by the Middle Ages, citrus was well-known and well-circulated throughout Europe," Killgrove said.

Dellù believes the girl likely suffered from scurvy because of vitamin C malabsorption.

"Albenga is on the Ligurian coast and fresh foods rich in vitamin C were certainly available," she said.

The researchers will soon carry biochemical or histological analyses -- thin-sectioning bone or testing it -- to see what the diet of that individual was like.

For the next three years, they have received a \$90,000 funding from private foundations (Fondazione Nino Lamboglia and Fondazione De Mari) to continue both analysis and excavation.

"We plan to excavate more skeletons, possibly of the same period of the girl, so that we can carry and compare DNA and biochemical analyses," Dellù said.

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Saturday, 31 October 2015

MEET THE MONSTROUS MAKALALA - A TANZANIAN TERROR BIRD?



Reconstruction of the makalala's possible appearance in life (© Markus Bühler)

Here's something suitable for Hallowe'en from the cryptozoological chronicles – a monster bird with a taste for flesh...human flesh.

No one doubts that the tallest species of bird alive today is *Struthio camelus*, the ostrich - no-one, that is, except for the Wasequa people (most probably an alternative, kiSwahili name for the Zigua - see Pat the Plant's very informative comments posted at the end of this ShukerNature blog article - thanks

Pat!), who inhabit an unspecified interior region of mainland Tanzania 8-9 days' journey from the coast of Zanzibar (the Zigua live directly inland from Zanzibar).

According to a report by a Count Marschall (*Bulletin de la Société Philomatique*, 1878-9), as recently as the 1870s these people averred that their territory harboured a monstrous bird even taller than the 8-ft-high ostrich, equipped with very long legs, the head and beak of a bird of prey (which it puts to good use when feeding on carrion from animal carcasses), and the ability to take to the air in sustained, powerful flight. Also, each of its wingtips bears hard plates composed of a horny, compact substance, and when it strikes its wings together they produce a very loud noise, earning this bird its local name - makalala ('noisy').

Marschall claimed that the makalala is said by the Wasequas to be very fierce, but can be killed if the correct strategy is employed. Engaging upon an extremely hazardous version of 'playing possum', the would-be assassin has to lie on the ground and feign death, until the makalala approaches close enough to seize the supposed human carcass - whereupon the latter must reanimate himself instantly and deliver the fatal blow before the makalala can rectify its mistake!

A second reconstruction of the makalala's possible appearance in life (© Tim Morris)

So far, this could all be discounted as fanciful native folklore - but physical remains of the makalala may have been recorded too. Marschall mentioned a Dr Fischer, who saw in Zanzibar an object that he identified unhesitatingly as a rib from some form of gigantic bird. Narrowing from one end to the other, this alleged rib had a width of 8 in at its widest end, and was just under 1 in at its narrowest end. Unfortunately, Marschall did not record whether

bird, presumably because it was too big for a normal bird's beak, though he is still infuriatingly vague. Getting a native speaker to translate it might squeeze out a bit more nuance. Unfortunately "grösser" means bigger/larger/taller so is not much more help than the French "taille plus grande"

Bagamoyo/Bagamojo is 222 miles from Korogwe by the A14 road, which is not quite direct. According to google that would take 45 hours to walk. Considering the conditions back then (and the necessity to be bird-collecting along the way) the equivalent of a modern 5½ hours travel per day does not seem unreasonable.

... During my stays in Bagamoyo - we spent 4 days there - I heard details about a fabulous bird, which I once before received word that should occur 8-9 days' journey from Bagamojo inside. The top-priest, who at the mission in the interior - in the Nguru Mountains - hear more about the strange bird, told me the following: the natives - Wasegua - indicate it come with them a bird in front of which is greater than an ostrich, very long legs, a Raptor-like head and beak were wearing, can fly very well and nourishing of carrion. The wings are to be phased in a compacte horny plate, with which he causing a loud noise by banging, why give him the natives the name makalala ie noise makers. I saw some time ago in Zanzibar such whalebone like mass, at one end about 20 cm. wide, then gradually narrows to the 1½ Cm. wide the other end. The mass was perhaps ½ Cm. thick. At that time I did not want to believe that the Object herstamme (originates) of a bird. The skull of the bird is to be used by the chiefs as a kind of cap for headgear. The animal is to be very shy and only to kill so that the natives lay as if dead on the floor and in the moments when the bird approaches its prey, jump up and down push him. I plan to when we return happy from our trip to the Wapokomo to go to the French resort in the interior, to determine certain about the alleged bird. It should be a very rich fauna in general there.



• Dr Karl Shuker 1 November 2015 at 16:24

I haven't seen the German report, so it is great to have this additional info from it - thanks very much. Do you have the full reference to it?



5. Pat the Plant 1 November 2015 at 08:42

... Bei meinem Aufenthalte in Bagamojo — wir waren 4 Tage dort — hörte ich Näheres über einen fabelhaften Vogel, von dem ich früher schon einmal Kunde erhalten, der im Innern 8-9 Tagereisen von Bagamojo vorkommen soll. Der Ober-Pater, der auf der Missionsstation im Innern — in den Nguru-Bergen — Näheres über den merkwürdigen Vogel gehört, erzählte mir Folgendes : die Eingeborenen — Wasegua — geben an, es komme bei ihnen ein Vogel vor, der, grösser als ein Strauss, sehr lange Beine, einen raubvogel- ähnlichen Kopf und Schnabel trüge, sehr gut fliegen könne und sich von Aas nähre. Die Flügel sollen in eine compacte hornartige Platte auslaufen, womit er durch Aneinanderschlagen ein starkes Geräusch verursache, weshalb ihm die Eingebornen den Namen makalala d. h. Lärmmacher gegeben. Ich sah vor einiger Zeit in Sansibar eine solche fischbeinähnliche Masse, an dem einen Ende ca. 20 Cm. breit,

dann sich allmählig verschmälernd bis zu dem etwa 1½ Cm. breiten andern Ende. Die Masse war vielleicht ½ Cm. dick. Damals wollte ich nicht glauben, dass das Object von einem Vogel herstamme. Der Schädel des Vogels soll von den Häuptlingen als eine Art Kappe zur Kopfbedeckung benutzt werden. Das Thier soll sehr scheu und nur so zu erlegen sein, dass sich die Eingebornen wie todt auf den Boden legen und in dem Augenblicke, wo der Vogel sich seiner Beute nähert, aufspringen und ihn niederstossen. Ich habe vor, wenn wir glücklich von unserer Reise zu den Wapokomo zurückkehren, zu der französischen Station im Innern zu gehen, um Sicheres über den angeblichen Vogel festzustellen. Es soll dort überhaupt eine sehr reichhaltige Fauna sein.

Dr GA Fischer, Dr A. Reichenow "Briefliche Reiseberichte aus Ost-Afrika III." Journal für Ornithologie (1878) XXVI (III:143) 268-297 (the relevant part being on p.297. This is the Journal published by Prof Dr Jean Cabanis or "Journal of Cabanis" referred to by M. le comte Marschall)



Dr Karl Shuker 1 November 2015 at 16:26

Awesome! Thanks very much for this! Calls for another rewording session of my own article, I think! Great to have this update before the book comes out next year.



6. BrianL3 11 November 2015 at 16:08

Given that this article has not yet been published in a book, I feel I should point a few mistakes/ommissions you have in there:

- There was a short time when Secretary Birds were considered to -perhaps- be related to seriemas, but that has never been recovered in any studies again. *Sagittarius* is very much a relative of accipitrids, the osprey and New World Vultures (but not falcons!) Seriemas themselves are related to, astonishing as it is, falcons, parrots and passeriforms. Also, you probably don't mean 'a closer taxonomic allegiance' when talking about relatedness. Taxonomy is just giving names, phylogeny is about the tree of life.
- *Kelenken* is the largest well-known phorusrhacid but not necessarily the largest overall. There is always mysterious *Brontornis* which likely was of comparable height but far more massive than *Kelenken*.
- The hoatzin is not related to cuckoos (or galliforms) after all. Even in the days of molecular studies, it keeps jumping around the avian family tree but it is undoubtedly without any *close* relatives and whatever they are most closely related to, it's highly unlikely to be cuckoos at this point.
- There are three species of screamer, not one, and they all possess impressive wing spurs.

I hope you're not offended by me pointing this out but it would be a pity if these mistakes ended up in your book.



• Dr Karl Shuker 4 November 2015 at 00:56

Hi Brian, Thanks for your comments, but in reality they are more differences of opinion and expansions than mistakes or omissions. Although molecular studies do tend to ally the secretary bird closer to the typical accipitrids (hence my referring to it variously as a raptor and a bird of prey), the egg albumen comparisons did indicate a similarity with the seriemas, and therefore merited a mention here. Kelenken is by far the tallest and also largest unequivocal phorusrhacid - there is controversy as to whether Brontornis is even a phorusrhacid at all, with some workers supporting an anseriform relationship. As you note yourself, the affinities of the hoatzin remain very controversial, with the latest notion being that it represents the oldest living avian lineage, distinct from all others alive today. Yes, there are indeed three species of screamer (I actually document the horned screamer in a separate ShukerNature article), which all possess the wing spurs, but the cross-section shape of the black-necked screamer's is such that it is likely to make the most noise when the wings are clapped together, hence my reason for highlighting this particular species. Nevertheless, I'm grateful to you for taking the time to mention these various points and I'll amend/expand those aspects that would benefit from greater elucidation to ensure that there are no ambiguities. All the best, Karl



7. Pat the Plant 6 November 2015 at 18:25

On a different topic, did you see this recent BBC piece on the Migoi of Bhutan?

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/magazine-34448314>

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Fischer sent it to a scientific institution for conclusive identification and retention.

However, Marschall did record another possible source of makalala remains - because he noted that native chiefs placed makalala skulls on their heads, using them as helmets! Could any of these bizarre examples of protective headgear still be owned today by Wasequa tribesmen?

Thanks to my afore-mentioned correspondent Pat, I now have a copy of a second makalala

document from the same time period - namely, the published account by the Dr Fischer alluded to by Marschall in his own report. He was Dr Gustav A. Fischer, and his account of the makalala was part of a much longer report co-authored in German with Dr A. Reichenow, which was published in 1878 within the *Journal für Ornithologie*. Interestingly, in his own account Fischer described the makalala as being very shy (rather than very fierce as claimed for him by Marschall in his report), and stated that he was reluctant to believe that the rib-like structure came from a bird (whereas Marschall claimed that Fischer readily identified it as such), but otherwise the two descriptions correspond well with one another.

Assuming, against all the odds, that the makalala is real - that the frightening scenario of a carnivorous bird taller than the ostrich surviving into historical times somewhere in mainland Tanzania's interior is not a grotesque fantasy but a sober fact - what could it be? Several interesting, albeit mutually-exclusive lines of speculation compete for attention.

The first of these to be discussed here was kindly brought to my attention by German cryptozoologist Markus Bühler. Breeding throughout much of sub-Saharan Africa, sporting an immense wingspan of up to 10.5 ft (even greater spans have been claimed but presently not verified), standing up to 5 ft tall, and weighing as much as 20 lb, the well known marabou stork *Leptoptilos crumenifer* (syn. *crumeniferus*) is certainly an extremely impressive, potentially formidable bird. Indeed, when specimens are scavenging from a carcass, they will sometimes even ward off vultures once the latter birds of prey have torn chunks of flesh from the carcass with their hooked beaks (which marabous lack). Even so, it seems unlikely that such a familiar species could have somehow been converted by local myth and superstition into a mystery bird.

The marabou stork (© DickDaniels/Wikipedia CC BY-SA 3.0 licence)

However, as Markus pointed out, during the Pliocene, Africa was also home to an even bigger species of marabou stork, *L. falconeri*, Falconer's marabou. Like *L. crumenifer*, it was widespread across northern and eastern Africa but stood around 6.5 ft tall (taller than an adult human of average height) and weighed up to 44 lb (as heavy as a small child). In comparison to *L. crumenifer*, Falconer's marabou exhibited a slight reduction in wing size, therefore possibly being more terrestrial than its modern-day relative, but it was still fully able to fly. As



birds often look much bigger than they actually are, due to their plumage and pneumatic internal system adding substantial volume to their forms, this already-huge species would have been truly monstrous in appearance, added to which its possibly greater terrestrial lifestyle means that it may possibly have been able to kill and eat bigger creatures than *L. crumenifer*.

Based upon fossil evidence, Falconer's marabou stork had become extinct by the end of the Pliocene 2.5 million years ago, but if it

had somehow survived into historical times (with what would be its more recent fossils not having been uncovered so far), there is no doubt that it could have been a thought-provoking makalala candidate (albeit one lacking the raptorial beak claimed by the Wasequas for the makalala). Even the latter's supposed wing-clapping sounds might in reality have been a confused memory of the beak-clapping sounds often produced by storks, and which would have been very loud if made by Falconer's marabou. However, there is currently no scientific evidence that the latter species did survive into historical times.

Another very large and intriguing species of bird that once inhabited Africa is *Eremopezus eocaenus*, which, as its name indicates, lived during the Eocene (specifically the late Eocene, between 36 and 33 million years ago). Its fossil remains, which have been obtained from Jebel Qatrani Formation deposits around the Qasr el Sagha escarpment, north of the Birket Qarun lake near Faiyum in Egypt, indicate that this was a very large, flightless, and quite possibly predatory bird, probably as tall as a small emu or large rhea but bulkier in form. Its taxonomic position has incited much debate, and it has yet to be confidently allied with any existing avian lineage, but the enigmatic *Eremopezus* does possess certain interesting and quite specific anatomical similarities with the secretary bird – a highly distinctive African species that will feature a little later in this discussion of potential makalala identities.

Could *Eremopezus* itself, however, be linked to the latter mystery bird? It seems implausible that this species could have lingered on into the present day or given rise to modern-day descendants without some geographically intervening remains have been found somewhere between Egypt and Tanzania's portion of East Africa. Then again, the fossil record is famously incomplete.



Height comparison of *Homo sapiens* alongside a selection of terror bird species (from left to right) *Kelenken guillermoi*, *Phorusrhacos longissimus*, and *Titanis walleri*, plus the diatrymid *Gastornis parisiensis* (public domain)

With flagrant disregard for zoogeographical dictates, the makalala readily recalls the phorusrhacids or terror birds. These were an aptly-named taxonomic group of huge flesh-eating birds known predominantly (but not exclusively) from the New World, and which attained their awesome zenith with a truly gigantic, spectacular species from Argentina's Patagonia region called *Kelenken guillermoi*.

Sporting a massive 28-inch-skull armed with an enormous hooked beak, this 10-12-ft-tall horror died out approximately 15 million years ago during the mid-Miocene, whereas *Titanis walleri* (originally thought to have been 10-12 ft tall too until further finds led it to be downsized to a still-daunting 5-6 ft) not only reached North America but lived there in Texas and Florida until at least as recently as 2.5 million years ago, making it the youngest terror bird species currently known. However, these fearful birds were flightless, as their wings were vestigial. Moreover, although confirmed terror bird fossils have been discovered in the Americas and also Antarctica, the only known fossil evidence for their erstwhile existence in Africa is a single femur from an individual that had lived during the early or early-to-mid-Eocene (i.e. between 52 million years and 46 million years ago) in what is today southwestern Algeria. In 2011, this mysterious species was named *Lavocatavis africana*.



Red-legged seriema *Cariama cristata* (© Dr Karl Shuker)

Even so, could the makalala be an undiscovered modern-day species? There is one notable precedent for such speculation, because some zoologists consider it plausible that a living, flying species of phorusrhacid-related bird is already known from Africa – namely, that strange, stork-like bird of prey called the secretary bird *Sagittarius serpentarius*. Although it is commonly classed as an aberrant accipitrid based upon molecular analyses, egg albumen comparisons have suggested in the past a closer taxonomic allegiance between this species and a pair of

South American birds known as seriemas - which constitute the last surviving members of a phorusrhacid-allied taxonomic family.

The secretary bird (© Brian Ralphs/Wikipedia CC BY 2.0 licence; photo cropped)

In any event, the secretary bird affords a compelling correspondence to the makalala's morphology (albeit on a rather more modest scale). Standing up to 4.5 ft tall on notably long, crane-like legs, and endowed with strong wings that support a powerful, soaring flight, plus the head and hooked beak of a bird of prey, the secretary bird constitutes a very acceptable makalala in miniature. Furthermore, when attacking snakes (an important part of its diet) it frequently shields itself from potentially fatal strikes with its outstretched wings, which are equipped with horny tips - i.e. claws on the tips of its 'finger bones' (phalanges), instantly recalling those of the makalala.



This last-mentioned correspondence is particularly telling, because there are very few species of bird alive today that are equipped with these wingtip claws. Indeed, other than the secretary bird, the only ones presently known are the three species of crane-allied birds called finfoots or sun-grebes, plus three vaguely grouse-like relative of waterfowl known as screamers, native to South America, and including the black-necked screamer *Chauna chavaria*, the cross-sectional shape of whose wing spurs is such that they are particularly noisy when clapped together. In addition, a strange pheasant-like bird known as the hoatzin *Opisthocomus hoazin*, again from South America, produces curiously reptile-like offspring able to crawl along tree branches by virtue of two large, mobile claws on each wing, but

these are lost as the chicks mature. Over the years, the hoatzin has been classified with numerous different avian groups, including the galliforms, cuckoos, touracos, mousebirds, waders, sand-grouses, and many others, but it is currently deemed to represent the oldest living avian lineage, discrete from all others alive today.



Illustration of the black-necked screamer, by Joseph Wolf, 1864 (public domain)

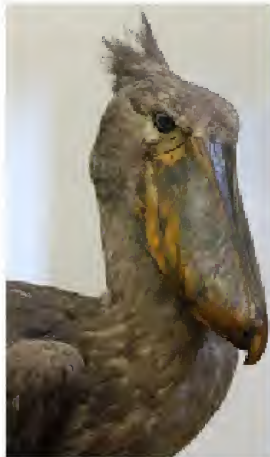
Certain other birds, like the jacanas or lily-trotters, the spur-winged goose *Plectropterus gambensis*, the spur-winged plover *Vanellus spinosus*, and a pair of Antarctic endemics called sheathbills, possess horny spurs on their wings, used in combat - but these are variously sited on the 'wrist bones' (carpals) or 'hand bones' (metacarpals), not upon the finger tips.

Out of all of these species, moreover, only one - the secretary bird - is predominantly carnivorous. Could the makalala, therefore, be some form of extra-large secretary bird - not necessarily as tall as the Wasequas state (their fear of it could certainly have inflated their estimate of its height), but much bigger than today's single known species? If so, a suitable scientific name for it would be *Megasagittarius clamosus* - 'the noisy, giant secretary bird'.

Staying with the secretary bird line of speculation, is it conceivable, alternatively, that the makalala was a false secretary bird, i.e. some other raptorial species, possibly another accipitrid (the eagles, hawks, and Old World vultures), that had assumed via convergent evolution a form outwardly comparable to *Sagittarius*? Although this is just another suggestion with no tangible evidence to support it directly, there is actually an interesting confirmed precedent for such an ostensibly unlikely premise.

In 1989, Drs Alan Feduccia and Michael R. Voorhies formally described a remarkable new species of North American fossil accipitrid from the late Miocene whose tarsometatarsal structure was nearly identical morphologically to that of the secretary bird. Indeed, the

convergence was so striking that they christened this species *Apatosagittarius terrenus*, which translates as 'terrestrial false secretary bird', because they considered it likely that just like the true secretary bird, it had exhibited a predominantly terrestrial hunting lifestyle. In fact, it was only because the tarsometatarsus bore some attached phalanges (toe bones) whose structure was very different from those of the secretary bird that Feduccia and Voorhies were able to confirm that *Apatosagittarius* was not a true secretary bird, but was merely an anatomical impersonator.



The shoebill - close-up of its head revealing its immense hooked beak, and a beautiful shoebill illustration from 1901 (© Dr Karl Shuker/public domain)

Finally, a sizeable predatory bird native to western Tanzania but possibly venturing eastward occasionally into the region supposedly inhabited by the makalala is the shoebill *Balaeniceps rex*. Once deemed to be an aberrant stork but nowadays considered to be more closely related to pelicans, this highly distinctive species stands up to 5 ft tall, sports a very impressive 8.5-ft wingspan, is famed for its enormous hooked beak, and has such a positively prehistoric appearance when seen in flight that it has been proposed by some zoologists as the identity of supposed living pterosaurs spasmodically reported from various regions of East and Central Africa - click [here](#) for a ShukerNature blog article on this subject.

However, the shoebill's wings do not possess horny tips, so it could not make the loud wing-claps characterising the makalala. In addition, being principally piscivorous it doesn't scavenge carcasses, it is shy of humans, and as its overall appearance is so singular that it seems unlikely the Wasequa would confuse such an unmistakeable species with anything else or convert it into a much larger, quite different mystery bird, this would seem to rule out the shoebill from further consideration concerning the makalala - unless, of course, there is a still-undiscovered species of giant shoebill out there...?

With a life-sized model of the North American terror bird *Titanis walleri* (© Dr Karl Shuker)

All of the lines of speculation discussed above – with identity contenders ranging from marabou storks, shoebills, and terror birds to secretary birds, false secretary birds, and even the anomalous *Eremopezus* – are certainly absorbing and thought-provoking, but even if any of them is valid, it is scarcely likely to yield a living makalala, sadly. After all, a bird as large and as visually distinctive as this one would surely be hard-pressed indeed to remain undiscovered by science for long, regardless of the geographical locality involved - yet there do not appear to be any post-19th-Century reports of its existence.



Consequently, even if the makalala was a reality in the 1870s, presumably it no longer survives - but that does not mean that its former existence cannot be verified. As noted earlier, among the valued possessions and relics of present-day Wasequas there may still be one or more of the revered helmets worn by long-departed chiefs. Should one of these tribal heirlooms pass into the hands of an ornithologist, the lucky recipient could well find himself holding a bona fide makalala skull!

The above ShukerNature blog article is excerpted from my long-awaited updated edition of *In Search of Prehistoric Survivors* – coming soon...

And staying with monstrous birds, be sure to click [here](#) to read my ShukerNature article about the seriously scary giant marabou 'stork of doom' pictured below that was still alive in southeast Asia as recently as the late Pleistocene, approximately 18,000 years ago.



Leptoptilos robustus, the spectacular if flightless giant marabou stork of Flores, and one of the diminutive real-life hobbits (FloresMan *Homo floresiensis*) that lived in its formidable shadow (© Hodari Nundu)

For a comprehensive coverage of the terror birds' evolution and fossil history, check out my book *The Menagerie of Marvels*, which features on its front and back covers a spectacular pair of terror birds depicted by acclaimed artist Anthony Wallis – thanks Ant!

13 comments:



1. Tyler Houck 31 October 2015 at 23:56

Is there a release date for the new edition of the book?



• Dr Karl Shuker 1 November 2015 at 02:07

I'm still working on the updates at present, but it should certainly be published some time next year. It is definitely planned as my next book. #25.



2. Pat the Plant 1 November 2015 at 04:16

The Zigua (in kiSwahili called Wazigua or Wazegua, "wa" being a common prefix meaning of/the/to) sound about right and live directly inland from Zanzibar. Their medicine horns sometimes have bird-headed stoppers. The Zigua are said to come from the vicinity of Korogwe so they live inland at least as far as the Usambara Mountains, which is part of the Eastern Arc Mountains, one of the 25 World Biodiversity

Hotspots. New species are still being found in the mountainous forests of Tanzania, lots of reptiles and amphibians, a half-metre long giant elephant shrew, a monkey and a bat quite recently and a partridge in 1991.

The shoebill is another scary five-foot tall predatory bird from that area that has a hooked beak. No rattly feathers but it might have some even scarier relatives.

The Segeju, known in Swahili as Wasegeju have a quite bird-oriented culture, it seems. They live straddling the border between Kenya and Tanzania by the coast, a little north of Zanzibar. They seem less likely but you never know with colonial-era spelling.

<http://notesandrecords.blogspot.co.uk/2009/04/birds-of-omen-and-little-flying-animals.html>



• Dr Karl Shuker1 November 2015 at 05:45

Thanks very much for your much-valued comments and information! I've incorporated some of it (credited to you) in my article, so thanks again for your updates, much appreciated.



3. Pat the Plant1 November 2015 at 08:40

Only 4,096 characters at a time? I'll try again,

I was intrigued enough to go to the original sources (it is the weekend, who needs sleep?), both available on the biodiversitylibrary.org website. I am certain that it was not a rib that was meant by Dr Gustav Fischer. The French report has "baleine" which can mean "whale" or "baleen". The latter makes more sense, as baleen is made of solid keratin like human fingernails and bird beaks. While "fischbein" in the original German version literally means "fishbone" it is actually the word for baleen, like our term whalebone.

Here is the French one and my translation (polished google):

VI. Oiseau problématique. (Journal de Cabanis, 1878, p. 297.)

Les Wasequas, habitants d'une région de l'Afrique centrale, à 8 à 9 journées de la côte de Zanzibar, rapportent qu'il existe dans leur pays un oiseau de taille plus grande que l'Autruche, à jambes très-longues, à tête et bec d'oiseau de proie, doué d'un vol puissant et se nourrissant de cadavres. Selon ces rapports, les ailes de cet oiseau se terminent par des plaques de substance cornée compacte, qui, frappées l'une contre l'autre, produisent un bruit considérable, qui lui a valu le nom de « Makalala » (tapageur). M. le Dr Fischer a vu à Zanzibar, sans se douter qu'elle provint d'un oiseau, une masse semblable à de la baleine, s'amincissant d'un bout à l'autre de 20 jusqu'à 1 1/2 et épaisse de 1/2 cm. On dit que les chefs indigènes se coiffent du crâne de cet oiseau en guise de casque.

L'oiseau en question est, dit-on, très-farouche; on ne peut s'en emparer, qu'en se couchant à terre et en simulant la mort.

Au moment où le Makalala s'approche pour saisir le prétendu cadavre, on lui porte le coup mortel.

VI. Problematic bird. (Journal of Cabanis, 1878, p. 297.)

The Wasequas, inhabitants of a region of central Africa, 8-9 days from the coast of Zanzibar, report that in their lands there lives a bird of a greater size/height/waist measurement (probably height, but you never know) than the Ostrich, with very long legs, the head and beak of a bird of prey, gifted with a powerful flight and feeding on corpses. According to these reports, the wings of this bird end in plates of a compact horny substance, which, struck one against the other, produce considerable noise, which earned it the name "Makalala" (noisy). Dr. Fischer has seen in Zanzibar, without doubting it was of a bird, a mass similar to baleen, tapering from 20 cm at one end to 1½ cm at the other and with a thickness of ½ cm. It is said that indigenous chiefs decorate their hair with the skull of this bird like a helmet. The bird in question is, they say, very fierce; one cannot seize it except by lying oneself down on the earth and simulating death.

At the moment the Makalala approaches to seize the pretend corpse he is given the mortal blow.

M. le comte Marschall "Comptes-rendu zoologiques" Bulletin de la Société Philomathique de Paris (1879-1880) 7(3): 169-181 (relevant part on page 176, 1879)



• Dr Karl Shuker 1 November 2015 at 16:19

Thanks for this, Pat. It matches very closely my own translation of the Marschall letter - a copy of which was originally sent to me back in the early 1990s by French cryptozoologist Michel Raynal nicely in time for me to document it in my original Prehistoric Survivors book published in 1995. This present, much-expanded ShukerNature version of that previous documentation of mine will be appearing in the updated edition of that book, which should be published next year.



4. Pat the Plant 1 November 2015 at 08:42

Unfortunately my German is practically non-existent so I can't polish the google translation of the original report. However, even relying on the googlemess shows a few differences. The bird is "scheu" meaning shy/timid/cautious, which is why it is difficult to catch. It is not "farouche" - wild/ferocious/rabid as the French version would have us believe.

In German Dr Fischer was reluctant to believe the fishbonely mass had come from a

Men's Words in Women's Mouths: Why Misogynous Stereotypes are Humorous in the Old French Fabliaux

warwick.ac.uk

by Rebecca Woods[1], Department of French, University of Sheffield

Abstract

While many scholars have examined the subject of misogyny in Old French fabliaux in a number of contexts, no consensus has yet been reached on how the fabliaux can be considered humorous in the light of the stereotypes found therein. By conducting a close contextualised study of three fabliaux, this paper asserts that the humour of the fabliaux is created out of misogynous stereotypes by investing female characters with the ability to appropriate and subvert masculinist rhetoric and discourse styles. This subversive portrayal of women enjoys a circular relationship with humour; the creation of a clearly defined 'joke-world' within the fabliaux licenses socially outrageous portrayals of female protagonists, which in turn create humour through their incongruity with the realities[2] faced by medieval women of all social classes.

Keywords: Fabliaux, masculinist discourse, humour, medieval women

Introduction

The subject of misogyny in the fabliaux has been an area of particular interest for modern medievalists[3], yet the question remains: how can misogyny, or any such unabashed and unrepentant diatribe against women, be part of a genre which is largely considered to be comic?[4] This paper will argue that, although discourse styles which are often attributed to men may find an outlet in the fabliaux, on several occasions they are found to be channelled through the genre's female protagonists, whose subsequent treatment of them casts a new light on the role of the fabliau woman and her place in the social hierarchy. Simultaneously, this paper aims to show that humour is not only the product of the creation of strong female protagonists but also that it facilitates this portrayal; that the humorous world created by the *fableors* allows fabliau women to take and subvert traditional, narrative and social forms of masculinist discourse, empowering them and enabling them to display their creativity, wit and ability to succeed.

An Overview of Women and Humour in Medieval Society

In order to begin to address the treatment of misogynous stereotypes in the fabliaux, a brief overview of the status of woman in medieval society and literature is necessary. Pre-Christian, Aristotelian views suggested that women should be controlled by their husbands and that females were not as fully human as men, as in reproduction only man could provide the 'soul' and the 'form' to bring life to the 'material' provided by woman (*De Generatione Animalium*, cited in Blamires, 1992: 38-39). This philosophy, which invested men alone with the influence and the power to create, along with Biblical teachings such as the story of Adam and Eve (Genesis 1:26 - 3:24), influenced medieval perceptions of women and their role in society. Medieval woman was considered secondary and subservient to man, yet with her

In order to do this, the *fableors* bestow upon their female protagonists a powerful persona rarely afforded to them in reality, and this persona is licensed by the way in which the women speak and the roles they accept or reject as females. Whether they manipulate misogynist stereotypes to their advantage, or work to disprove them altogether; whether they knowingly dress their speech as powerless to outwit their adversaries, or use the discourse of power to boldly claim attention, the 'winning women' of the fabliaux and their respective successes and simultaneously celebrated and empowered through the liberated laughter of their audience.

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Notes

[1] Rebecca graduated from the University of Sheffield in June 2010 with a degree in French and Linguistics and is currently the Graduate Trainee Librarian at the Classical Faculty Library, University of Cambridge. She is looking to return to university to continue her studies in September 2011

[2] One must be cautious when referring to the 'real' life of the medieval woman and must avoid generalising across the social classes. There are accounts of some empowered women in the Middle Ages, usually aristocratic ones, such as Eleanor of Aquitaine, described by Owen as 'one of the most influential figures of the twelfth century' (1996: back cover), and Hildegard of Bingen and Adela of Blois. Furthermore, the emergence of *femmes soles* who were active in trade in the twelfth century suggests that women in the middle classes too were more visible than is usually assumed (Power, 1975: 2). For these reasons it is difficult to generalise about the reality faced by the medieval woman, as their realities depended largely on their social class. However, historians such as McNamara and Wemple (1988: 94) and Georges Duby (1977) suggest that the practice of primogeniture did in general diminish the power of woman, and Power (1975: 2) suggests that the aristocratic lawmakers of the day 'were in agreement in placing woman in subject to man, [therefore] neither the concept of marriage nor the law took note of her as a complete individual.' See note 4 for more information about the status of the medieval woman.

[3] Medievalists who have discussed this issue include Power (1975) and Bloch (1987), who argued that the medieval portrayal of women was a negative one which reflected society's misogynist treatment of women; alternatively scholars such as Ladd (1976), Johnson (1983), Burns (1993) and Perfetti (2003), who are incidentally all female, promote a rather more positive view on the subject, suggesting that the women are empowered, rather than slandered, by the *fableors*.

[4] While most scholars believe that the fabliaux are intended to be humorous – Bédier (1893) called them 'contes à rire en vers' [humorous tales in verse] by way of a definition – some find humour too fluid a concept in itself to constitute a defining feature. Noomen and van den Boogaard, for example, did not consider humour as a criterion when finalising the corpus of their *Nouveau recueil complet des fabliaux (NRCF)*. It is true that some of the more violent fabliaux, for example *Les Tresces*, may not appeal to modern sensibilities (nor indeed some members of its medieval audience). However, as humour is neither universal nor uniform, so general consensus, that the fabliaux are largely comic, holds sway here.

[5] For more information about the status of the medieval woman, see Blamires (1992) for a holistic discussion of views on women from the pre-Christian tradition up to around 1800; Fiero *et al.* (1989) for three medieval poems about women (note that the shortest poem addresses the virtues of woman, and almost all these virtues refer to her effect on man); Garcia Teruel (1995) for opinions in 12th and 13th century French literature; Palmer (n.d.) for the laws women were subject to in marriage in 12th century England; Power (1975, particularly Chapter 1) for a comprehensive portrait of medieval women in Europe.

[6] The classification of successful fabliaux females as 'winning women' was first used by Anne Ladd (1976: 100) and was seized upon by Lesley Johnson in her key article 'Women on Top: Antifeminism in the Fabliaux?' (1983: 298, 307)

[7] The classification of *Le Lai du Lecheor* is a contentious issue. Scholars such as Maddox (2005: fn. vii) , Tobin (quoted in Burgess and Brooks, 1999: 10) and Burgess and Brooks themselves (1999: 10) recognise the difficulties of classifying *Lecheor*; even Marie de France referred to it as a fabliau (Tudor 2004: 11). Indeed, the text I am using was found in a manuscript containing 24 lais (MS Paris, Bibliothèque Nationale de France, nouv. acq. Fr. 1104, f. 43r, col.1 – 43v, col.1), yet its subject matter is more akin to that of the fabliaux. Other fabliaux have been known to feature courtly characters and aristocratic audiences were thought to have enjoyed fabliaux as much as the lower classes (Nykrog 1973). Furthermore, according to Scott (1977: 10), it is precisely the content which distinguishes the lai from the fabliau. Therefore, for the purposes of this paper, as the content of the piece is my main focus, I consider it to be a fabliau with a courtly setting.

[8] Line references from this fabliau are taken from Manuscript A in *NRCF* vol.5 (1990).

[9] The first to suggest this was Bédier (1898: 327), though it must be noted that Nykrog (1957: 230) disagrees, insisting that the audience of the fabliaux was the same as that which appreciated courtly romances. Rychner, conversely, notes how both audiences could well have appreciated the same fabliau, or at least versions of it (1960). Unfortunately no hard and fast proof of the audience demographic exists, which leaves such questions enticingly open to interpretation.

[10] Line references for this fabliau are taken from Manuscript E in *NRCF* vol.8 (1994).

[11] Quotes and line references for the *Lai du Lecheor* are taken from the original text in Burgess and Brook eds. 1999: 66-71

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numerous vices and faults, she was compelled to cause men problems. Bloch (1987: 3) notes that many of medieval women's vices are verbal ones: garrulousness, criticism, reproach and incessant demands, to name but a few,[5] which suggests that an analysis of the speech of fabliau women is particularly pertinent.

Such views, however, pose a problem for the medieval scholar. Though some women, particularly in higher social classes, were known to have some influence, the prevailing social hierarchy of the twelfth and thirteenth centuries was a patriarchal and patrilineal one. Yet the female protagonists portrayed in the fabliaux are not all oppressed or suppressed by misogynous ideals; on the contrary, there are many examples in the fabliaux where the woman is seen to succeed at the expense of a cuckolded husband or a less calculating female character. How then were such subversive portrayals permitted and, moreover, why are they amusing?

The characterisation of women in ways which society might deem improper could not be achieved through earnest representation without attracting censure. Humour is often transgressive, and some of the funniest jokes address taboo subjects whose treatment would be socially unacceptable if delivered with serious intent. Indeed, as Mary Douglas (1975: 98) explains:

The telling of [a joke] is potentially subversive, since its form consists of a victorious tilting of uncontrol against control, it is an image of the levelling of hierarchy, [...] of unofficial values [triumphing] over official ones.

Yet as Davies argues, the 'ephemeral and epiphenomenal' (2004: 3) nature of jokes prevents them being mistaken for a serious attempt to effect change upon society. Consequently, in the fabliaux, the use of humour confers immunity upon the *fableor*, allowing him to address socially unacceptable issues. As Boutet (1985: 116) explains:

La conduite générale du récit [...] nous inciterait plutôt à limiter notre interprétation au seul domaine de l'écriture.

[The general tone of the story leads us to confine our interpretation of it solely within the domain of the written word.] (Author's own translation)

With respect to the portrayal of women specifically, the *fableors'* use of humour confines the outlandish characterisation of creative, successful women to the non-threatening world of literary conjecture, allowing the author to return to the accepted world order without reproach.

There is, however, a second justification behind such 'joke-worlds', as women themselves were considered to be inherently subversive and dangerous to society (Bloch, 1987: 17). Logically then, allowing women more freedom in society would cause untold problems; instead, they are allowed free rein to pursue their desires and express themselves in the fabliaux. Abastado (1979 : 237) summarises this liberating effect of the fabliaux:

La littérature carnavalesque se caractérise par la liberté des sujets, une trivialité qui ne recule devant aucune outrance, la fantaisie de la fiction [...]; et, sous ce couvert, s'autorise la plus

grande audace de la pensée.

[Carnavalesque literature is characterised by the freedom of its protagonists, its trivial nature which is unrepentant in the face of outrage, the fantasy of fiction [...], and, under this guise, it authorises the most audacious ways of thinking.] (Author's own translation)

This is exactly the kind of liberty of word and thought enjoyed by the women of the fabliaux; however, such behaviour is permitted solely on the understanding that the literary 'joke-world' is the only world in which they will be allowed to disport themselves in this way.

Men's Words in Women's Mouths: a Contextualised Study of Three Fabliaux

These subversive portrayals of women as successful, creative and powerful lead to 'unconventional perspectives in [the fabliau] narratives' through which the *fablieors* 'establish the authority of women in their tales' (Johnson, 1983: 307). An essential element in establishing the authority of the 'winning woman'[6] in the three fabliaux I have chosen is the way in which she presents her ideas and challenges her adversaries through her use of words. However, in order to analyse her discourse, I must first examine how the sexes use language differently. Robin Lakoff, the eminent sociolinguist who was among the first linguists to explore gendered language in depth, suggested in her 1975 work that women use a language which is submissive, using features such as 'hedging', polite forms and empty adjectives more than men. Tannen (1990) supports this conciliatory and co-operative view of women's language, as her findings indicated that women's communication tended to be supportive and often used to build rapport. Finally, in the context of a study of sexual power, Holland *et al.* (1998: 56) suggested that male language use was 'dominant' over women's disparagingly entitled 'girls' talk'. In contrast to these assessments of women's language use, men are said to use language in order to dominate and compete and are referential rather than emotional when they speak (Holmes, 1998: 462). My definition of masculinist discourse encapsulates not only these impressions of male speech, but also misogynist rhetoric such as stereotypes about how women should behave and their status within society.

As some fabliau women assert their authority through their treatment or appropriation of a form of masculinist discourse, I will analyse closely the reinterpretation of masculinist social discourse in *De la damme qui fist trois tours entour le moustier* [The lady who took three turns about the church tower], followed by traditional formal discourse in *Les trois dames qui troverent un vit* [Three ladies who found a penis] and finally narrative discourse in *Le Lai du Lecheor*[7] [The Lay of the Lecher]. These fabliaux have been chosen for the different ways in which the successful female protagonist uses language and also because each fabliau features a different adversary for the aforementioned protagonist: in the first case, her spouse; in the second case, three fellow women; and in the final case, a group of courtly men who are neither related to nor married to the protagonist. Each woman also comes from a different social background: the first lady is of relatively good social standing as the wife of a squire (l.17); the second woman, an abbess, leads a simple life as befits her vocation, and the third lady is recognised as a member of the aristocracy. It must be noted that this selection is necessarily limited and does not pretend to provide a comprehensive representation of women in medieval comic literature. Yet, as Johnson points out, 'the mode

of the fabliau world is essentially a contingent one which resists attempts to build up a character portrait of Woman in the tales' (1983: 300). This 'contingent' nature of the fabliaux not only justifies a contextualised study, but our inability to generalise about fabliau women is evidence of the liberty afforded to them by the *fableors*, a freedom whose empowering effects are clear to see.

In the case of Rutebeuf's *De la damme qui fist trois tours entour le moustier*, the female protagonist appropriates masculinist social rhetoric about the virtues of the ideal wife in order to get ahead. She recasts long-standing stereotypes and assumptions in her own voice and style, creating a screen to conceal her extramarital activities from her husband and simultaneously casting him as the one at fault. For example, as a ruse to go out late at night, she tells her husband that she needs wool from a friend for her tapestry: an undeniably suitable pastime for a medieval lady. She espouses an affective rather than referential speech style in accordance with Holmes's suggestion that women tend to focus on the affective meaning of verbal interaction (1998: 462); she does this by purporting to worry about her husband's lack of sleep, coercing him to go to bed in order to get him out of her way (ll.64-72).[8] Through using this typically feminine style, she further lulls her husband into a false sense of security. The audience, however, knows of her affair with a local priest and can therefore appreciate the lady's shrewd play-acting. It is notable that this style of speech contrasts with the style she uses with the priest when she is no longer affecting this feminine façade. The priest himself lives up to fabliau stereotype, 'abus[ing] his education by engaging in mock-courtly wooing in pursuit of base prostitution' (Burrows, 2005: 75), as we see here:

Fet li prestres ice me tue
 Que vous serez ia trop batue
 Onques de moi ne vous souiengne
 Dant prestres de vous vous couiengne
 Dist la damoisele en riant. [The priest said "It kills me,
 The thought that your husband will beat you."
 "Don't worry about me,
 Good priest, concern yourself with yourself,"
 The lady said, laughing.](ll.113-17; author's own translation)

The priest's 'wooing' could be described as affective discourse, as he claims to have concerns about the lady's wellbeing, which she summarily dismisses, laughing, with a sense of self-assurance and practicality commensurate with the masculinist discourse style she now uses.

The lady's coup-de-grâce is achieved when she returns home. As she has been gone a long time, the husband wildly harangues her, even unwittingly accusing her of her true crime (l.128) in an uncontrolled and contentious manner redolent of the faults attributed to medieval women (Bloch, 1987: 3). His lady, however, calmly tells him that she is pregnant by him and that she has been performing an age-old ritual which will indicate the sex of the baby (ll.138-55). Whether she is actually pregnant or not is a moot point; her husband believes her, admits that he is at fault for suspecting her of any less virtuous behaviour and they make peace with each other (ll.156-66). Here the lady has been particularly clever; the production

of an heir, especially a male one, was considered to be a lady's foremost task in marriage. By ostensibly fulfilling all the roles expected of a respectable medieval wife, she puts herself beyond reproach and shames her husband for doubting her. The audience, aware of how the lady has manipulated cultural exigencies, laugh with the wife as she may continue her adulterous relationship free of suspicion and laugh at the credulous husband, who has been thoroughly outplayed by his spouse.

The way in which Rutebeuf takes well-known stereotypes about women and passes them into the hands (or rather mouth) of a sharp-witted woman is a motif noted by E. Jane Burns (1993: xiv):

The very fact that a woman actively speaks the stereotypes that are typically uttered by men about women allows for a different reading: one that would significantly change the terms of the standard hierarchical equation.

In this instance the 'hierarchical equation' is completely reversed; not only because socially accepted masculinist discourse is subverted by the lady to achieve her own ends, but also because the addition of a creative, calmly assertive dimension to her character comes at a cost to the portrayal of her adversary. Lacy (1985: 324) surmises that 'the man remains an individual' compared with the generic women of the fabliaux, yet in this case I would argue that the lady's wit, skill and daring personality are in sharp contrast to her husband's dull, exaggeratedly one-dimensional nature. As the fabliau men abdicate their rationality and their reason, they abandon some of the fundamental distinctions between the sexes.

Consequently, the traditional definitions of 'female' and 'male' traits become much more fluid, allowing the female characters to flourish and succeed. Making use of a fundamentally male trait, creativity, the lady here 'voic[es] a challenge to the ideology which [misogynous stereotypes] were initially designed to convey' (Burns, 1993: xv), as she is clearly neither subservient nor answerable to her husband.

But why would an audience, of which around half the members would be male, find the emasculation and humiliation of a fellow man funny? I agree with Gaunt's assertion that 'the point seems to be that one man's stupidity allows a clever woman to get the better of him, [...] and that other men laugh at this oaf.' (1995: 267) The Freudian concept of *Schadenfreude* certainly seems to come into play here as the 'laughter [of the watching audience] expresses a pleasurable sense of the superiority which [they] feel in relation to him' (Freud, 1973b: 195), as they themselves remain uncuckolded and untricked. It is also possible that the relatively high social status of the couple in question would add to the humour, because it is thought that the largest audience demographic for the fabliaux was the urban bourgeoisie,[9] who would relish the opportunity to laugh at the misfortune of one of their 'betters', at least as far as the feudal hierarchy was concerned.

Yet this woman's ability to triumph over the man may in fact be of even greater threat to the accepted social order than the simple fact of an empowered female character. Medieval opinion was preoccupied with the weakening, even blinding effect that women's sophistry and irrationality could have on men (Bloch, 1987: 17). The motif of the outwitted husband must therefore carry an element of fantasy or impossibility in order to entertain rather than

threaten. Accordingly, the exaggerated impotence of this husband who is so hopelessly outplayed by his wife also invites ridicule as a result of its extreme incongruence vis-à-vis the realities of medieval society, in which men of all social classes had social and legal control over their wives (Palmer, n.d.).

The second work I shall examine also features the success of a woman as a result of the diminution of other characters, in this case three particularly silly and quarrelsome women. In *Les trois dames qui troverent un vit*, the 'winning woman' is an abbess who embraces a traditionally male role but who, in contrast to the lady in *De la damme qui fist trois tours entour le moustier*, also espouses the corresponding discourse style to great effect.

Three women, described as 'parish wives' (Revard, 2005: 114), are on pilgrimage when they find a '.ii. coiz et .i. vit mout gros' [two balls and a great big penis] (l.13,[10] author's own translation) under a hawthorn hedge. The hysterical reaction of two of the women on finding the *vit* [penis] perpetuates the traditional stereotypical image of irrational, lustful females. As they fight over the ownership of and their shares in the *vit*, they finally decide to solve the problem by taking it to a fair arbiter; in this instance, the abbess of a nearby convent. The abbess agrees to preside over the case of the disputed *vit* but swiftly undercuts the wives by claiming the *vit* as the abbey's lost door-bolt (ll.92-94).

The humour in this fabliau comes from the mismatch of character traits between the three women and the abbess, allowing the author to challenge how women are traditionally portrayed, and is augmented by the strangeness of the situation and the sudden, unexpected turn of events. Controversially, the abbess is invested with a traditionally masculine role as the presiding judge in the case of the *vit*. Although her court is an informal one, the abbess is metaphorically placed above the parish wives in her new-found role and justifies this position through her demeanour and speech. The abbess adopts many traditionally masculine attributes: calmness, rationality and quick-thinking, to produce an impressively audacious justification for her 'ruling'. Similarly, her speech shows masculinist discourse markers; for example, when the parish wives first call for the abbess's judgment:

Par foy fet l'abaesse avant
Jert l'auoir mis et le verron
Et en après en Jugeron

["My faith," said the abbess,
"Bring it before us, we shall look upon it
And after, we shall judge it."]

(ll. 72-74; author's own translation)

The abbess communicates to the wives precisely what she intends to do, without passing comment on their emotional state or the personal details of the case. In this way her speech is highly referential, like masculinist discourse, with few allusions to affective communication. There is recent research which could help shed light on the reasons behind this: O'Barr and Atkins (1980: 109) conducted research into how men and women used language in a court setting. They found that discourse markers such as those used by the abbess were used by

people from higher social backgrounds, such as well-established professionals, irrespective of their sex. Similarly, low-ranking men were as likely to use 'powerless' language, something like the uncontrolled, emotional and incoherent outbursts (ll.101-06) of the parish wives, as women. This suggests that the abbess takes on this masculinist discourse style not because she is fulfilling the role normally played by a man, but because it is a role which confers power upon the speaker. I shall further discuss the effects of power upon discourse later in this paper.

Such overtly powerful discourse markers coming from the mouth of a woman, a daughter of Christ no less, is an alien enough concept for the audience. However, when juxtaposed with the behaviour of the parish wives, whose hysterical outbursts and 'riotousness' have been considered by philosophers to be typically female attributes (Freud, 1973a; Bloch, 1987: 3-6), the incongruity of the abbess's behaviour is such that the idea of a woman in a position of power seems almost proper and socially acceptable.

Moreover, as Douglas explains, jokes 'bring into relation disparate elements in such a way that one accepted pattern is challenged by the appearance of another which is in some way hidden in the first.' (1975: 96) The disparate elements in this equation are the abbess and the strange and obscene disassociated penis, which combine not to produce a show of pious disapproval but opportunistic audacity. A feminist reading of this episode could suggest that the 'hidden pattern' is that quick-thinking and cleverness are in fact attributes which many women share, but that are rarely recognised in the patriarchal medieval social structure. What is certain is that the abbess's unexpected, incongruous conduct leaves the surprised audience no choice but to laugh, simultaneously showing their approbation of the calmly daring abbess and condemning the stereotypical, shallow parish wives to the status of fabliau losers, along with the husband in *De la damme qui fist trois tours entour le moustier*.

The wholesale capture of masculinist discourse and its markers is also evident in the third work of interest, the *Lai du Lecheor*. This work is 'one of the very few examples of a courtly narrative which deals with sexual matters explicitly' (Eley, 1999: 8) and interestingly, this explicit narrative is delivered with relish and authority not by daring knights, but a group of courtly ladies. The *Lai du Lecheor* contrasts with the preceding works, however, as the ladies' subversion of narrative discourse creates cohesion rather than conflict between them and their verbal jousting partners. The story is set on St Pantelion's Day, when stories of knightly valour and prowess are traded and a new lai is composed by the assembly. This year, however, a small group of eight courtly noble women, described as 'de Bretagne la flors' [the flower of Brittany] (l.57),[11] seize upon the idea that all knightly endeavours and triumphs can be attributed to the knight's devotion to the *con* [cunt].

The member of the group who makes this astute observation is a masterful oratrix. There is no doubting her authoritative style, stereotypically a characteristic of masculinist speech (Hogg, 1985: 104), as she uses language cleverly to command her audience. She uses rhetorical questions, anaphora and 21 lines of the text, one sixth of the text as a whole, to create tension before finally uttering the crucial word. Consequently, the shock value of the incongruously crude *con* releases tension, causing us to laugh with the lady's seven companions and to congratulate her wit and observation as they start to compose the new lai

(II.101-103).

As we laugh, we perceive a clearly defined 'joke-world' created by the incongruous and shocking 'renversement' [reversal] (Méla, 1987: 61) of accepted social and literary conventions. Within this non-threatening comic arena, the *Lai du Lecheor* allows itself to make challenging propositions and expose one-dimensional stereotypes of women as such. In contrast to the accepted view that women are capable of producing little more than chaos and anxiety (Bloch, 1987: 3, 4), we see a group of multi-dimensional women, whose combination of traditionally feminine grace and stereotypically male creativity and forthrightness allows them to confront the male knights and clerks as intellectual equals. The lady's style of speech could also be described as competitive, a characteristic of masculinist discourse identified by Plato (Brown, 1988: 597-98), as she challenges accepted behaviours and competes to propose the best topic for that year's lai, a competition usually disputed by the men who recount their noble deeds and achievements. She also distances herself from stereotypically feminine discourse styles; one of the earliest sociolinguists to comment upon gender, Otto Jespersen, noted a preference among women for 'refined and (in certain spheres) veiled and indirect expressions' (1922: 245). There is nothing indirect about our lady's assertions, as she expresses herself without recourse to euphemism, thereby wresting power from the unexpected men present by challenging social preconceptions (McConnell-Ginet, 1980: 14).

With reference to these men, the ladies' adversaries, it is important to note that less time is devoted to describing the men and their role is secondary in comparison with the women. Indeed, it is interesting to note that the men in the *Lai du Lecheor* do not produce any direct speech at all. This is in contrast with recent research by Tannen (2007: 182, 190), which found that men tend to speak significantly more than women in public situations, such as the large gathering described in the *Lai du Lecheor*, and that they appear to be more comfortable than many women when using talk to claim attention. This role reversal reinforces the women's appropriation of the masculinist style. However, the men's characters and virtues remain relatively undiminished, unlike the husband in *De la damme qui fist trois tours entour le moustier*. Their weaknesses are exposed and recognised, but they retain their social status and recover something of their standing with their ladies, working with them as equals to compose the lai of the *con*. This is a clear divergence from the Judaeo-Christian tradition in which the woman is a derivation of man and therefore cannot compete with him as an equal.

The emergent equality between the ladies, the clerks and the knights is possible because of an important change in the balance of power between women and men which has been effected by humour. Bakhtin's commentary on medieval laughter never rang truer than in this context; 'this laughing truth, expressed in curses and abusive words, degraded power' (1984: 92-93). The truth observed by the ladies, that the *con* influences and inspires knightly valour, is conveyed merrily through the use of the profanity, which consequently destroys the official divisions and bestowal of power between men and women.

A Question of Power

The successes of the women in the three fabliaux I have studied have all been due to the

female protagonist exercising power over her adversary: in *De la damme qui fist trois tours entour le moustier*, the lady successfully claims to know what her husband wants to hear and how he wants to hear it; in *Les Trois Dames qui troverent un vit*, the abbess profits from the position of power in which she has been put by the parish wives, and in the *Lai du Lecheor*, the lady claims power by placing herself as a sole speaker in front of a public audience. The question must be then asked: is it sexual difference or simply a question of status and authority which licenses the use of masculinist discourse? O'Barr and Atkins's (1980: 109) research, as commented upon with reference to the abbess, found that the way their subjects used language did not differ for any biological reason, but in fact due to the social status of the person using it. In order to apply their suggestion that Lakoff's 'women's language' is in fact 'powerless language' (1980: 104), in conjunction with Gaunt's view that 'the prime motivation of the fabliaux is an interest in mutability, coupled with a mistrust of fixed hierarchies' (1995: 235), my definition of masculinist discourse must be refined. Masculinist discourse style is not 'male' for biological reasons, but because medieval society dictated that power and the corresponding discourse was (almost) the sole preserve of men. Consequently, the fabliau women adopt the discourse of power because of the powerful positions they claim relative to their adversaries, rather than espousing a kind of discourse which is usually unavailable to them for any biological reason.

Conclusion

The debate over the antifeminist sentiments of the fabliaux may continue, but for my part I believe that the popular – and populist – fabliaux create a synergy between the empowerment of fabliau women and the humorous nature of the genre. In this circular relationship, female appropriation and subversion of powerful discourse and misogynist stereotypes provokes laughter through the incongruity created; laughter which simultaneously sanctions such socially threatening representations of 'misrule' (Perfetti, 2003: 12). This laughter is permitted because it is ephemeral (Bahktin, 1984: 88-89, Davies, 2004: 3), offering the audience brief tempting views of a different world order before society and reality come back into harsh focus.

Furthermore, 'laughter's potential to resist the construction of women as passive' (Perfetti, 2003: 12) is in evidence in the fabliaux I have discussed; their female protagonists each actively lay claim to a different kind of powerful discourse and turn it to their own advantage. While some scholars, like Johnson, celebrate their success, saying 'the winning women of the fabliaux are above all cunning and high-spirited (rather than adulterous and deceitful)' (1983: 307), the unusual forthrightness of these women has led some scholars to view the portrayal of women as negative and antifeminist; Power describes fabliau women as 'odious' (1975: 11). My opinions, however, align with those of Gaunt; I do not believe that the *fableors* wish to press either a feminist or an anti-feminist agenda, regardless of the immunity afforded to them by their use of humour. Instead, they are using humour to play devil's advocate with accepted social norms; to suggest what *could* be, rather than what *should* be. As Gaunt (1995: 235) explains:

The principal preoccupation of the genre is, rather, an impulse to overturn perceived hierarchical structures of all kinds, to reveal them as artificial and susceptible to manipulation.

Legends of witches, **Moll Dyer** in **Leonardtown, Maryland**, telling the legend takes centuries, since 1697.

Moll Dyer lived in a hut, the villagers had her as a witch, she blamed poor harvests, and other misfortunes, burned his house and left to their fate under the harshest winter.

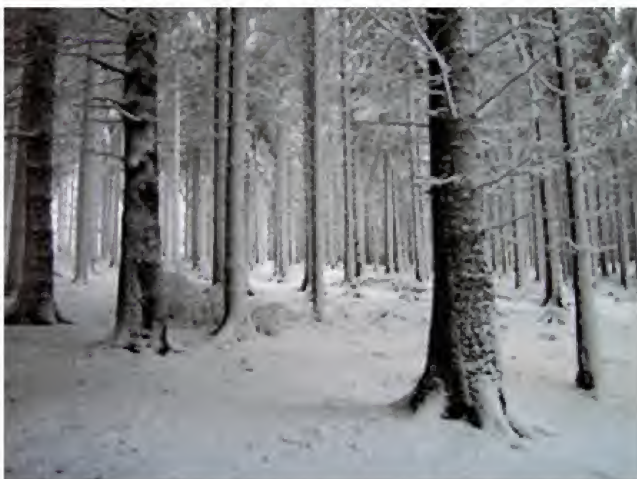


Moll Dyer was a poor Irish immigrant who would be held in low esteem. She lived alone in her hut, surviving on charity. She was a foreigner, and the villagers thought was a witch and rituals to which they had brought disgrace to the people.

The legend

It tells the **legend** that residents of *Leonardtown* back in 1697, thinking the alleged **witch** had brought them bad luck with their crops and animals joined with ropes torch and went to his house at night.

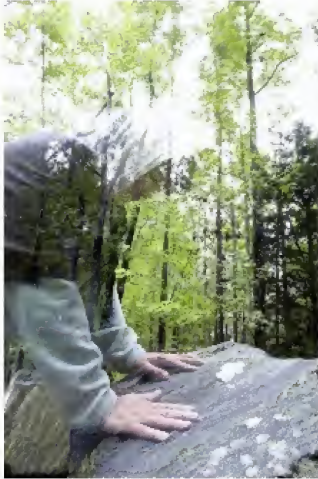
They say the cold numb woman leaned against a large rock which left its mark on the knees and hands on the stone, then with one hand pointed to the sky and died frozen. His body was found days later. Legend has it that his body round the earth looking for the men who forced her to leave home. The land near their hut say it is cursed because crops do not grow and there have been an unusual number of rays.



They burned his house, however **Moll Dyer** escaped from his hut and went to the forest. He traveled more than five kilometers under intense cold. Finally he fell rendered on a large rock say cursing his enemies.

In the big rock where they say leaned **Moll Dyer** recorded you left the traces of their hands and knees, cursing his enemies.

As legends have different versions say that **Moll Dyer** had drunk, the men



chased the people with torches and she fled to the shelter of the nearby forest where he died.

Although the popular superstition of that time accused witch Moll Dyer, it is actually another story where fanaticism and hysteria lead to violence.

Historically there is no documented evidence of the existence of **Moll Dyer** .

However if you have found an ancient documents such Maria Dyer who came from a family of dyers and could have resided in Leonardtown between 1600 and 1700.

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Exploring the relationship between women & death. All things danse macabre to death row. Examining the deadly & celebrating the 'dedicated'

"Be home when the street lights come on!" Was a common directive during many of our childhoods, as we anxiously ran out into the world to play. However, in my neighborhood and for many of us who lived out our childhoods on the East Side of Los Angeles that directive also came with a sinister warning – "Or, she'll *get* you."



Sunset After The Rain. | Stephen Roullier/Flickr

"Be home when the street lights come on!" Was a common directive during many of our childhoods, as we anxiously ran out into the world to play. However, in my neighborhood and for many of us who lived out our childhoods on the East Side of Los Angeles that directive also came with a sinister warning – "Or, she'll *get* you."

Six-year-old me would warily begin to eye the diminishing light and sneak glances at the streetlights between neighborhood games of tag.

When the lights finally turned on I was racing up the stairs and into the house at full speed. Sometimes, I would dare to look back half-hoping, half-dreading to see her – a woman all in white with her long, dark hair wild and blowing out behind her. She would be clutching a claw hammer and you would hear her coming for you, screeching like an owl and looking for children...*to kill*.

They say a local woman in the 1920s or 1930s had lost her shit and killed her children with a hammer. As these



Sunset After The Rain. | Stephen Roullier/Flickr

stories so often go, the woman escaped and is still roaming the hills seeking her next pint-sized victim.

Such cautionary tales are common around the world, especially among Mexican-American families like my own – fear is a useful parenting tool.

Kids won't go to bed? Just tell them if they don't go to sleep *right now*, La Mano Peluda a grotesque, partially decomposed, hairy hand some poor guy lost during the Spanish Inquisition, is going to drag them from their beds while they sleep!



Sunset After The Rain. | Stephen Roullier/Flickr



Sunset After The Rain. | Stephen Roullier/Flickr

Don't want your kids playing near the water? We have a story for that too – La Llorona. Believed to be a centuries old tale of a woman who commits infanticide by drowning her children in an act of vengeance after she discovers her husband is cheating on her. La Llorona now wanders, crying for her little ones and taking any living children she finds back with her to their watery grave.

Your child will get in her car seat so fast when she hears that the alternative is being forced to ride in

La Carreta Chillona, or “The Screechy Wagon.” La Carreta Chillona is fashioned from the bones of victims who were once patients of a greedy, Spanish priest who pretended to be a doctor.

Then there is the all-purpose terror, El Coco or Cucuy, who is the Mexican version of the universally dreaded Boogeyman. What he does or what he looks like varies from region to region, but everyone can agree when he finds you he will devour you.

As we grew up, we recognized the stories as the cautionary tales they were but, sometimes there is a terrible, tragic truth behind our elder's stories.



CLARA PHILLIPS ALBERTA MEADOWS
Sunset After The Rain. | Stephen Roullier/Flickr



Sunset After The Rain. | Stephen Roullier/Flickr

Clara “Tiger Girl” Phillips was a former L.A. chorus girl who was wed to Armour Phillips. According to her friend Peggy Caffee, Armour had been fooling around with recently widowed cutie, Alberta Meadows.

Clara immediately set her plans in motion and stopped in to a five-and-dime store to purchase a hammer. Before making her purchase she asked a store employee if he thought the hammer would be heavy enough to kill a woman with. Assuming she was making a joke he told Clara, “If you hit her hard enough

with it.”

On July 10, 1922, Clara, with Peggy in tow, convinced Alberta to give them a ride. At some point during the drive Clara asked Alberta to pull over so that they might converse privately and proceeded to brutally beat her with a claw hammer and then rolled a large boulder on top

of her as Peggy watched from the car. With her rival now out of the way, Clara returned home to her husband, where she informed him that she would make him the best dinner he'd ever had.



Sunset After The Rain. | Stephen Roullier/Flickr

Armour told the police everything and Clara was tried and convicted of second-degree murder. Not long into her incarceration Clara escaped the county jail and was discovered four months later in Honduras. She was paroled in 1935.

Our folklore, ghost stories, superstitions and urban legends are too often dismissed as frivolous entertainments, but they are so much more than this. These monsters become part of our families, as we share them with generation after generation. They help to form our behaviors, reveal our cultural

values and beliefs and inform our identities – particularly those of women. Perhaps most of all, they reveal our fears – fears not only about the monsters among us, but within us. Our lives are full of stories that have the power to reveal various truths...if we are only willing to listen.

Posted in Maiden Post, Sarah Troop and tagged Deadmaidens, Death, Fear, Folklore, Gender Roles, ghosts, History, La Llorona, Los Angeles, Mexico, monsters, Murder, Women on 16/11/2015 by deadmaidens.

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Northeast Ohio's Haunted Places, Abandoned Cemeteries, Legends and other curiosities.

Submission: More Cedar Point Ghost Pictures

Posted on October 14, 2015 by camevil

10/13/2015: Kim S. shares an alarming image she captured while taking pictures of her family. Could it be a female spirit with an unexplained connection to the property, as one "medium" has theorized?

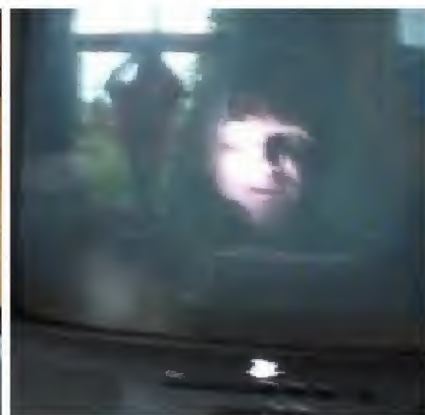
On August 27th, 2013, I captured this image by accident in one of the Cedar Point Cabins upon entering. I was taking pics to send to a friend of the cabin layout. I had just entered and asked my family to stand to the side so I could get uncluttered pics.

The television was off as we had just literally walked in – I have had it looked at by a well known Medium and he has validated it and claims it to be a woman with a connection to the property.

The first two will be of the image that I captured (not knowing at the time), a zooming in of the face.



IMG_0244



IMG_3379

You can see my reflection snapping the pic in the photos (in the television) and then the spirit in there. Please note when reviewing my pics – the

remote is clearly still sitting on top of the TV – as I stated, we had just walked in the door.

The next photos are ones I tried to take after seeing it to validate it and show the TV was off at the time and then with it on, etc. I also have a pic of where I was standing to show all angles and that the face blocked reflections of the futon couch.

[Editor's note: Comparison photo of TV off.]

[Editor's note: Comparison photo of TV on.]



IMG_0247



IMG_0246

There was no way of redoing that pic with the image – I tried to debunk it with my follow up photos – which clearly show our belonging having been moved into the upper loft, TV on and off and a shot of the space I stood in – in front of the window. It freaked us out.

I only noticed it was there about 20 minutes later when I zoomed into the photo to make sure my daughter had not stuck her tongue or “finger” out at me so I could forward to my friend in Colorado.

I haven’t been back since that trip – but am returning this weekend Oct 9-11, 2015 for Halloweekend. Wish me luck!!!

This entry was posted in Haunted Places, Reader Submissions and tagged Cedar Point, ghost, haunted, photo, picture, spirit by camevil. Bookmark the permalink.



IMG_0245

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Published online 3 June 2011 | Nature | doi:10.1038/news.2011.346

Researchers claim to have produced sought-after quantum effect.



Phil M Rogers / Alamy 2010

A moving mirror can generate light from a vacuum.

A team of physicists is claiming to have coaxed sparks from the vacuum of empty space¹. If verified, the finding would be one of the most unusual experimental proofs of quantum mechanics in recent years and "a significant milestone", says John Pendry, a theoretical physicist at Imperial College London who was not involved in the study.

The researchers, based at the Chalmers University of Technology in Gothenburg, Sweden, will present their findings early next week at a workshop in Padua, Italy. They have

already posted a paper on the popular pre-print server arXiv.org, but have declined to talk to reporters because the work has not yet been peer-reviewed. High-profile journals, including Nature, discourage researchers from talking to the press until their findings are ready for publication.

Nevertheless, scientists not directly connected with the group say that the result is impressive. "It is a major development," says Federico Capasso, an experimental physicist at Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts, who has worked on similar quantum effects.

At the heart of the experiment is one of the weirdest, and most important, tenets of quantum mechanics: the principle that empty space is anything but. Quantum theory predicts that a vacuum is actually a writhing foam of particles flitting in and out of existence.

The existence of these particles is so fleeting that they are often described as virtual, yet they can have tangible effects. For example, if two mirrors are placed extremely close together, the kinds of virtual light particles, or photons, that can exist between them can be limited. The limit means that more virtual photons exist outside the mirrors than between them, creating a force that pushes the plates together. This 'Casimir force' is strong enough at short distances for scientists to physically measure it.

From virtual to real

For decades, theorists have predicted that a similar effect can be produced in a single mirror that is moving very quickly. According to theory, a mirror can absorb energy from virtual photons onto its surface and then re-emit that energy as real photons. The effect only works when the mirror is moving through a vacuum at nearly the speed of light — which is almost impossible for everyday mechanical devices.

Per Delsing, a physicist at the Chalmers University of Technology, and his colleagues circumvented this problem using a piece of quantum electronics known as a superconducting quantum interference device (SQUID), which is extraordinarily sensitive to magnetic fields.

The team fashioned a superconducting circuit in which the SQUID effectively acted as a mirror. Passing a magnetic field through the SQUID moved the mirror slightly, and switching the direction of magnetic field several billion times per second caused it to 'wiggle' at around 5% the speed of light, a speed great enough to see the effect.

The result was a shower of microwave photons shaken loose from the vacuum, the team claims. The

group's analysis shows that the frequency of the photons was roughly half the frequency at which they wiggled the mirror — as was predicted by quantum theory.

Capasso calls the experiment "very clever". He doubts that the effect has any practical use because it doesn't generate large numbers of photons, but he considers it a nice demonstration of quantum mechanics. He still hopes to see a moving piece of metal generate detectable light from the vacuum, and believes that micromechanical systems may eventually be able to reach such speeds.

Pendry says that the result, if it stands up, is bound to generate excitement. "Work in this area stirs considerable passion in the breasts of physicists."

- **References**

1. Wilson, C. M. *et al.* Preprint at <http://arxiv.org/abs/1105.4714> ().

Comments

- #59680

Great article. Something like this could make a great invention if one could find a way around the personal injury law cases (Personal Injury Lawyers in Austin that would result from manufactures of lighting equipment would make. Anything that saves people money almost always ends up losing someone else money.

- 2013-08-12 06:25:41 AM

- Posted by: Jimmy James

- Great article. Something like this could make a great invention if one could find a way around the personal injury law cases Personal Injury Lawyers in Austin that would result from manufactures of lighting equipment would make. Anything that saves people money almost always ends up losing someone else money.

- I thought the reason quantum foam could exist given the laws of thermodynamics was that any energy taken out of it is immediately put back in in the fastest possible time.

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- 11 November 2015
- From the section England



Hedgehog numbers in the UK have fallen from about 36 million in the 1950s to less than a million, campaigners say

The "great British hedgehog" should become a national symbol of the UK, an MP has suggested.

Oliver Colvile, Conservative MP for Plymouth Sutton and Devonport, said numbers of the prickly creatures had fallen by a third in the last decade.

He said that declaring the hedgehog to be Britain's national symbol might

enthuse people to protect it.

But environment minister Rory Stewart questioned hedgehogs' suitability, and said the lion should remain the symbol.

Mr Colvile said his love of hedgehogs stemmed from his mother reading Beatrix Potter's *The Tale of Mrs Tigger-Winkle* to him as a child.

Image caption

Read more on this story as it develops throughout the day on our Local Live pages.

He said: "The principal reason for this prickly animal's decline is due to the loss of habitats.

"Likely factors for the hedgehog demise are the loss of permanent grassland, larger field sizes, use of pesticides and herbicides and a reduction of hedgerow quality."

Mr Stewart responded in the House of Commons: "Do we want to have as our national symbol an animal that when confronted with danger rolls over into a little ball and puts its spikes up?

"Do we want to have as our national symbol an animal that sleeps for six months of the year, or would we rather return to the animal that is already our national symbol, the lion?"

What can you do to help hedgehogs?

- Solid fences and walls restrict a hedgehog's movement through gardens. Make sure



European Hedgehog (Erinaceus europaeus)

you leave small gaps at their bases

- Hedgehogs can swim but often drown in garden ponds because of their steep and slippery sides. Provide them with an escape route: a piece of wood, chicken wire or pile of stones
- Bonfires make good places for hedgehogs to nest. Check them to make sure a hedgehog has not made its nest before lighting

- Be prepared to leave a small part of your garden to go wild. Long grass, log/leaf piles and undergrowth provide foraging and nest places for the perfect hedgehog habitat
- Feed your local hedgehog, but please provide dog/cat food and not bread and milk
- Sign up as a volunteer on the hedgehogstreet.org website.

Source: Devon Wildlife Trust

In response to a crashing hedgehog population, a 90-hectare refuge was created this year by the Warwickshire Wildlife Trust.

Funded by the British Hedgehog Preservation Society, the conservation area stretches across a nature reserve, a public park and the surrounding streets.

The trust said that during the 1950s, some 36 million hedgehogs used to snuffle in UK gardens, although there may now be less than a million.

Gavin Williamson, Conservative MP for South Staffordshire, said he was doing his bit to help.

He said: "It's very important to use our gardens which are a specific habitat for hedgehogs.

"Just recently in my own garden I built a hedgehog house. Sadly I have no residents in it but hopefully it will encourage them and the growth of hedgehogs in South Staffordshire."

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Mummified bishop is a unique time capsule from the 17th century

lunduniversity.lu.se



CT scanning

Published: 16/06/2015

The mummified remains of Peder Winstrup are one of the best-preserved human bodies from the 1600s. Preliminary investigations reveal a sensational find: the internal organs are still in place.

“We can now observe that Winstrup’s mummy is one of the best-preserved bodies from Europe in the 1600s, with an information potential well in line with that offered by Ötzi the ice man or Egyptian mummies. His remains

constitute a unique archive of medical history on the living conditions and health of people living in the 1600s”, says Per Karsten, director of the Historical Museum at Lund University.

Peder Winstrup, a bishop and prominent historical figure in Scandinavia, was one of the founding fathers of Lund University. He died in 1679 and was buried in the famous cathedral in Lund a year later. The coffin, together with its contents, constitutes a unique time capsule from the year 1679 with a well-preserved body, textiles and plant material.

Usually the internal organs would have been removed; in this case, however, the body was not embalmed in a traditional manner but simply dried out naturally. The good condition of the body seems to be the result of several factors in combination: constant air flow, the plant material in the coffin, a long period of illness resulting in the body becoming lean, death and burial during the winter months of December–January and the general climate and temperature conditions in the cathedral.

In December Peder Winstrup underwent a CT scan at the University hospital in Lund. The preliminary results show that the body is relatively well preserved and it was possible to identify most of the internal organs.

The first results show dried fluid and mucus in the sinuses, indicating that Winstrup had been bedridden for a long period before he died. Calcifications in the lung could indicate both tuberculosis and pneumonia. Plaque was also found in the left coronary artery of the heart, the aorta and the carotid artery, indicating that the bishop suffered from atherosclerosis.

“The gall bladder also has several gallstones, which could indicate a high consumption of fatty food”, says Caroline Ahlström Arcini, an osteologist working on the project.

Peder Winstrup, who lived to the age of 74, also suffered from osteoarthritis in both the knee and hip joints. In addition, he had lost a number of teeth. Traces of caries were found in a

couple of the remaining teeth, which would indicate that he had access to sugary foods.

“His right shoulder was slightly higher than his left, due to an injury to a tendon in the shoulder. This would have limited Winstrup’s mobility, making it difficult for him to carry out simple everyday tasks such as putting on a shirt or combing his hair with the comb in his right hand”, says Caroline Ahlström Arcini.

Unexpected discovery of a foetus

An unexpected discovery that emerged from the CT scan was a four- or five-month old foetus, well hidden in the coffin under Winstrup’s feet. Nobody knows who put the foetus there.

“You can only speculate as to whether it was one of Winstrup’s next of kin, or whether someone else took the opportunity while preparing the coffin. But we hope to be able to clarify any kinship through a DNA test”, says Per Karsten.

The next step will be investigations into the textiles in the coffin, as well as further study of the body. Tissue samples from the internal organs are to be removed, among other things. In addition, the extensive plant material in the coffin will be investigated.

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Saturday, October 24, 2015

Murder in McDowell.

Little Murders



Stephen Effler

On January 6, 1881, a traveler named Sowers stopped at the home of Stephen Effler and his wife and was invited to stay for supper. The Efflers lived near McDowell, North Carolina, in a wild gorge in the Blue Ridge Mountains, so remote that no wheeled vehicle could pass within a mile. During the meal, Effler and his wife, got into a terrible argument and she told him she planned to leave him and return to her mother the following day. By the time Sowers left, the fighting had ceased, and Mrs. Effler seemed to be in good health.

Some time later Effler went to his grandfather's house and told him that his wife was very ill. His grandfather alerted the neighbors, and they went to see how Mrs. Effler was doing. "Very ill" was an understatement, they found Mrs. Effler lying dead with her three-month-old baby sleeping on her breast. Her neck had been broken, her right shoulder dislocated, and she had wounds and bruises all over her body. Effler was arrested, and a coroner's jury summoned. Their conclusion was "that the deceased came to her from wounds inflicted by some weapon in the hands of her husband."

The neighbors were not surprised; Effler was an uneducated man, "with all the rudeness of a savage." He had a reputation for cruelty, and even as a young boy had had invented modes of torturing animals. His wife had been devoted to him, but he treated her brutally and abused her in public. Effler had a mean, vengeful disposition and was hated and shunned by those who lived near him.

Stephen Effler was tried in the fall court term and found guilty of murder. He then filed an appeal with the state Supreme Court, claiming to be insane. While the matter was pending, Effler began acting strangely, and for months complained of a constant pain in his head. When the Supreme Court declared that Effler was sane, he admitted that he had been feigning insanity and vowed to live better in the little time he had left. In the spring term, the Superior Court sentenced him to hang on May 19, 1882.

The one person exempt from Stephen Effler's cruelty was his little child. It was remarked that his love for the child was great, and he always treated it with kindness. Effler dictated his confession and had it printed up to be sold to the crowd at his execution to raise money for the orphan he would be leaving behind. He must have been successful in this venture, because, 8000 people came to witness the hanging.

Following prayers, Effler, standing on the gallows, delivered an hour-long harangue to the crowd. Although he had confessed to the murder, he contested the handling of the crime and accused the witnesses against him of perjury. Then he declared that he was ready to die. At 1:50 pm, the Deputy Sheriff cut the rope, and the trap fell. Six minutes later Stephen Effler was dead.

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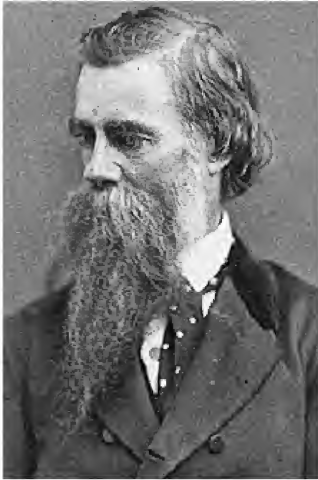
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Saturday, June 6, 2015

The Murder of Pet Halsted.



Oliver "Pet" Halsted

Oliver Spencer Halsted Jr., better known as Pet, was a political gadfly in the Lincoln administration. Coming from a prominent family of New Jersey politicians, Pet Halsted was a political insider, both in Washington and back home in Newark. Like so many in his profession, Pet Halsted was also a man of unbridled lust and in 1871 he became romantically involved with one of his legal clients. His rival for her affections, a charcoal peddler, was not impressed by Pet's credentials and was ready to fight to the death for his lady.

Date: July 2, 1871

Location: Newark, New Jersey

Victim: Oliver "Pet" Halsted

Cause of Death: Gunshot

Accused: George Botts

Synopsis:

Oliver "Pet" Halsted, son of Oliver Spencer Halsted Sr., former Chancellor of New Jersey, worked in Washington as a lobbyist for arms dealers, and although he never held elected office he was a successful politician behind the scenes. Halsted gained entrance to the White House by befriending Mary Todd Lincoln while she was vacationing on the Jersey Shore, and he soon had the ear of the President. Pet Halsted became nationally known early in the Civil War for his harsh criticism of General George McClellan, general-in-chief of the Union Army.

After the war, Halsted moved back to his hometown, Newark, New Jersey, and practiced law. In 1871 he was living with his wife and six of their eight children in the heart of the city. It was common knowledge that Pet Halsted also kept a mistress, Mrs. Mary E. Wilson, in a rented apartment, just a short walk from his home.



Newark, New Jersey

Halsted met Mary Wilson in April 1871 when she hired him as her attorney in her divorce proceedings. The relationship went from professional to romantic that spring and after winning her divorce, Halsted rented Mary an apartment on the third floor above a South Street beer saloon, where he came and went at will. The problem with this arrangement was that Mrs. Wilson had sought a divorce specifically so she could marry her fiancé, George Botts—also known as “Charcoal” Botts because of his occupation as a charcoal peddler. She broke off the engagement with Botts, claiming she could not tolerate his intemperance, but Botts knew the real reason and he refused to accept it. He showed Mary Wilson a revolver and said he was going to shoot Pet Halsted. Halsted, aware of the threat, carried a revolver of his own and said he would shoot Botts first if it came to that.

Botts and Wilson had planned to spend the Fourth of July together, but Mary Wilson sent Botts a letter canceling their plans, saying that she was going to visit her sister in Philadelphia and did not wish him to be there. In fact, she was planning to spend the holiday in Newark with Pet Halsted. With his wife and children away, visiting his married daughter on Long Island, on Saturday, July 1, Halsted went stay on South Street with Mary Wilson.

Botts knew that Mary Wilson had not gone to Philadelphia, and he spent Saturday night trying to drink her off his mind. It did not work, it only fired his anger more. He was drinking in the saloon owned by John Spies, landlord of Mary Wilson’s apartment. Botts showed Spies his pistol and said, he was going to shoot that son of a bitch Halsted, and left the bar. At three a.m. he was back at Spies’s door ringing the bell, asking to see Mary, saying, “I love that woman.” Mary, hearing the bell, went downstairs and told Spies not to let him and Botts left again.

At seven o’clock, Botts was back again and this time he was upstairs trying to break into the

apartment. Halsted was on the other side of the door trying to keep him out. Botts pushed his way in and Mary Wilson could see that he was brandishing the revolver. "George, don't shoot," she said. Botts replied, "You son of a bitch, I'll shoot." Halsted grabbed Botts and a struggle ensued, then the pistol fired. Halsted collapsed on the sofa and Botts ran out the door and down the stairs.

Halsted was shot in the chest, the bullet puncturing his windpipe. Mary Wilson stood over him saying, "What a wicked woman, what a wicked woman I am." He lived another thirty-five minutes before literally drowning in his own blood. Outside, Botts had gone just a short distance when he was arrested by Officer Cullen. Botts told him he was on his way to the police station to surrender himself, explaining, "Pet wanted to have her all to himself; he wouldn't divide, so I fixed him; I have got satisfaction, and I don't care if I swing for it; I suppose I shall be locked up over the Fourth, but I'll have a better Fourth than he will."

Trial: October 17, 1871

George Botts's prosecution was a classic case of "Jersey Justice." Unlike New York City, where a murder trial could last a month or more, and with appeals take years to reach a resolution, or Connecticut where an investigation could get bogged down in the inquest and never resolve at all, New Jersey trials were swift and short, and if an execution was required it was done quickly and without hesitation. The coroner's inquest began the afternoon of the murder and ended the same day with the indictment of George Botts. The case was tried at the next session of the Essex County Court of Oyer and Terminer, and on the opening day the judge told the attorneys he wanted the trial concluded within three days.

The trial lasted five days, but it was fairly cut-and-dried, there was little disagreement as to the facts of the case. At issue was whether or not George Botts was sane when he shot Halsted. The defense claimed that "Jealousy ruined the mind of George Botts who was already on the verge of *mania a potu* (madness from drinking). He was in a frenzied and, therefore, irresponsible state of mind." Mary Wilson opened another line of defense when she said in her testimony that she thought the gun went off accidentally.

The prosecutor countered both theories in a three and a half hour closing argument, saying, "It was trifling with the attention of the jury to occupy time in considering the theory of insanity. Botts had simply been drunk, and had harbored revenge for many a long month, and even had he been insane, and yet known he was doing wrong, he would have been guilty. The prisoner's gross nature afforded no excuse. He voluntarily put the Devil in his heart, and strengthened it with cups. Neither Botts nor his counsel had ever thought the shooting accidental, notwithstanding all their consultation, until Mrs. Wilson's testimony had been given."

The judge's instructions to the jury strongly favored the prosecution. After deliberating for three hours the jury returned a verdict of guilty.

Verdict: Guilty of first degree murder.

Aftermath:

The defense moved for a new trial claiming that one of the jurors had been unduly induced to convict Botts. The motion was denied and George Botts was sentenced to hang on December 21. The hanging was delayed until January 27, 1872. In the meantime, George Botts produced a marriage certificate proving that he was actually married to Mary Wilson. They had kept it a secret to protect her from prosecution as a bigamist. Since the trial, Mary Wilson had entered a house of ill-fame in Philadelphia and Botts saw no further need to protect her.

At 11:32, the morning of January 27, 1872, George "Charcoal" Botts was launched into eternity, inside the Newark Jail.

Sources:

Newspapers:

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Websites:

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The people of the Mussara and documents quoted in 1173. The area surrounding the Mussara has some spectacular scenery, the village was abandoned about 1950.



The area of La Mussara is ideal for enjoying nature, climbing, hiking, caving attract many visitors to these places. The Mussara also gained prominence as a mysterious place, where apparently unexplained events had happened. Disappearances and facts that have been passed making the Mussara a mysterious place.

Today the town is in ruins with only few houses whatever the people and the church. A few meters from the village there is a village where a singular fact discussed. They say there is a large stone that whoever surpasses goes to the town of Six ... a place casualty in another dimension.

The truth is that in this area there have been mysterious disappearances, found no explanation to spread rumors.

Among the mysterious events told about the Mussara

They say that in 1995, a German engineer working in the area disappeared for three hours. Then he reappeared and did not remember anything.

They say a neighbor disappeared and appeared in USA without knowing how he got.

On 16 October 1991 a group of friends out to pick mushrooms. The area knew well, were chatting in groups of two. Suddenly one of them Enrique Martinez Ortiz stopped talking. It was not, it was gone. His companions searched without finding it.

The Civil Guard made a raid with dogs. Nothing. Your cart he found a mushroom in a plain, near the stone villa 6. place His car was parked with their belongings inside even with medication.

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Mysterious Glow at Milky Way's Center Could Be Dark Matter or Hidden Pulsars

Print

scientificamerican.com

Astronomers get closer to an explanation for the unexpected abundance of gamma rays at the core of our galaxy

By Clara Moskowitz November 18, 2015



X-ray: NASA/CXC/SAO; Optical: Detlef Hartmann; Infrared: NASA/JPL-Caltech

The heart of our galaxy is oddly bright. Since 2009 astronomers have suggested that too much gamma-ray light is shining from the Milky Way's core—more than all the known sources of light can account for.

From the beginning scientists have suspected that they were seeing the long-sought signal of dark matter, the invisible form of mass thought to pervade the universe. But two recent studies offer more support for an alternate explanation: The gamma rays come from a group of spinning stars called pulsars that are just slightly too dim to see with current telescopes.

Part of the confusion stems from uncertainties about the gamma-ray signal, which shows up in data from NASA's Fermi Gamma-Ray Space Telescope. Many different groups have analyzed Fermi's publicly available data and claimed to see an unexplained excess of light, but the details of what they find and how they interpret it vary from group to group. Now, for the first time, the Fermi telescope team has confirmed the puzzling excess in a paper submitted to *The Astrophysical Journal*. The study offers the best description yet of the particularities of the extra light, such as its density and spread in space and its wavelength spectrum as well as all of the contaminating factors, such as systematic errors in the telescope and other sources of gamma-ray light that may muddy the signal. The team's analysis stokes hopes that scientists may finally be close to making sense of the signal.

On the trail of dark matter

The gamma-ray glow has long intrigued theorists who say it uncannily matches predictions for a particular explanation of dark matter. Dark matter must be all around us because the stars and galaxies feel its gravitational pull—but its makeup is unknown. One suggestion is that "weakly interacting massive particles," or WIMPs, account for dark matter. These particles would be their own antimatter counterparts, and just as matter and antimatter destroy one another on contact, two WIMPs would annihilate if they collided. At the center of the Milky Way, where dark matter is thought to be extremely dense, WIMPs would often smash together and their explosions would likely give off gamma-ray light—just as Fermi sees.

But the light may have a more mundane origin. Pulsars are the remnants of once-large stars that have run out of fuel for nuclear fusion and collapsed. They spin at dizzying speeds—many make a full rotation every millisecond—and shine their light in condensed beams that rotate with them like a lighthouse. Pulsars are known to emit gamma-rays and could conceivably contribute to the surplus if there are enough of them hiding in the galactic center. Two recent studies that came out before the Fermi analysis support this scenario by finding that the extra gamma-ray light looks a bit more clumpy than smooth. Clumps would be expected if the light originated from individual objects—like pulsars—rather than from dark matter particles spread evenly through space. “Having a model based on point sources rather than smooth emission changes your statistics,” says Tracy Slatyer a physicist at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, leader of one of the studies. Her team found a “striking” preference in the data for pulsarlike points of light. A separate study using different statistical methods, led by Christoph Weniger at the University of Amsterdam, came to the same conclusion. “Right now, I think millisecond pulsars are the best bet,” Weniger says. “Although everybody would like to find a dark matter signal, we have to be careful and not to jump to conclusions.”

Not everyone is persuaded, however. “I think these point source papers are very interesting, and I have considered their arguments carefully,” says Dan Hooper, an astrophysicist at the Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory who was one of the first to point out the gamma-ray surplus. “That being said, I am not convinced that point sources are responsible for the excess.” It seems just as likely, he says, that the evidence for clumpiness is a result of mistaken assumptions about other sources of gamma rays such as interactions between cosmic rays and the gas between stars. “At this point, I don't think the answer is clear.”

And one issue with the pulsar explanation is the question of why so many would be clustered in a sphere around the hub of the Milky Way. “It really looks like a different population that was formed in a different way” than familiar pulsars, Slatyer says. Astronomers Timothy Brandt and Bence Kocsis of the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton have suggested that star clusters orbiting the Milky Way might have been disrupted by our galaxy's gravity, causing them to spill out stars, including pulsars, into a spherical shell in the middle of the galaxy. “The nice thing about this explanation is that the model they use was developed for a different purpose,” Slatyer says, “and what they get actually lines up very well” with the galactic center signal.

The comprehensive information on the gamma-ray light in the new Fermi collaboration study should help clarify the situation. “I think quite highly of the new paper,” Hooper says, adding that it “fills us in about many of the details.” The Fermi team itself is agnostic about the source of the light. “We can conclude that there is an excess on top of the conventional gamma-ray emitters, and there's certainly an indication that there is something new, but it's too soon to conclude that there is a dark matter signal,” says Simona Murgia of the University of California, Irvine, one of the primary co-authors of the Fermi paper. As for pulsars, “myself, I would say they are equally plausible.”

Finding proof

The good news is that if pulsars are behind the excess, more powerful, telescopes in the future should be able to spot the too-faint spinning stars directly. Pulsars would be prime targets for next-generation radio telescopes such as MeerKAT under construction in South Africa and the Square Kilometer Array (SKA), which encompasses MeerKAT, set to become operational in southern Africa and Australia in 2020. "Should we fail to find them in the next five or ten years, a dark matter explanation becomes more likely again," Weniger says. "This is pretty much a win-win situation. But we have to be patient."

Meanwhile support for the dark matter explanation could appear even sooner. If WIMPs are responsible for the invisible matter, they might arise in the particle collisions taking place at the world's largest atom smasher, the Large Hadron Collider (LHC), which was recently restarted at its highest energies yet. So-called direct detection searches are also looking for WIMPs in underground experiments aimed at catching the elusive particles in the rare act of interacting with regular matter. The fact that neither particle accelerators nor direct detectors have yet seen dark matter particles has already put strong constraints on the types of WIMPs that could exist. Astrophysicist Francesca Calore of the University of Amsterdam and her colleagues recently combined the theoretical constraints from all the various searches as well as data from the galactic center. They found many WIMP models are already excluded by the data but some remain plausible. "It came out that there are a few interesting regions that can be probed by the next rounds at the LHC, which can actually be tested in the next year," Calore says.

Another check on the dark matter hypothesis comes from dwarf galaxies. After all, if WIMPs are annihilating at the center of the Milky Way, they must also be doing so at the cores of other galaxies. The signal would be too dim to see in neighboring large galaxies but should show up in "dwarf spheroidal" galaxies orbiting the Milky Way, which are thought to be extremely dense with dark matter. "But there's no signal from dwarfs," says Kevork Abazajian of U.C. Irvine, noting that only one of the roughly 30 known dwarfs shows a hint of gamma-ray excess. "The story seems to be that the dwarfs are dark and the galactic center is bright." In fact, the lack of gamma rays in the dwarf galaxies seems to cast significant doubt on the dark matter explanation for the Milky Way glow, Abazajian and a collaborator found in a paper submitted last month to the preprint server arXiv.

If dwarf galaxies, particle accelerators and direct detection experiments continue to come up empty in future years, the plausibility of the WIMP explanation for dark matter—and for the Milky Way's excess gamma rays—will get further stretched. The same goes for the search for pulsars in the galactic center. Soon these ideas should either be confirmed or disproved. "It's always been my fear with this excess that we'd never find a confirming signal in any other dark matter channel but also no good astrophysical observations" such as pulsars, Slatyer says. "That's a very frustrating situation to be in as a scientist." Luckily that eventually, she says, is looking less and less likely.

Comments

QuantumFlux November 18, 2015, 12:55 PM

Why would dark matter be condensed in the Milky Way core? According to observations

of stars and their velocity if we go by the theory of gravity (Relativity) then stars near the outskirts of the Milky Way should be moving slower than the stars orbiting near the black hole Sgr A*. But that does not seem to be the case. So apparently dark matter is not concentrated in the core of the Milky Way. If dark matter was concentrated in the core of the galaxy then the stars there would be traveling faster than what could be accounted for by the amount of mass there. Because dark matter is not concentrated in the core then the gamma rays can only be coming from one other source. The black hole itself.

My conclusion: Relativity is incomplete. Like when astrophysicists discovered the expanding universe and dark matter. All 3 of these observations, high energy gamma rays, dark energy and dark matter defy the theory of Relativity. Simply admit it, Relativity is incomplete.

AdmiralSmorg November 18, 2015, 4:53 PM

It's Nougat all the way down

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Mysterious Group of Extinct Humans Was More Diverse Than Neandertals

Print

scientificamerican.com

DNA from Denisovans suggests they lived in Siberia for millennia and were more genetically diverse than Neandertals, but less diverse than modern humans

By Charles Q. Choi and LiveScience | November 17, 2015



fossilized molar tooth

A molar from a Denisovan individual, found in a cave in Siberia.

Image courtesy of Bence Viola.

A mysterious extinct branch of the human family tree that once interbred with modern humans was more genetically diverse than Neanderthals, a finding that also suggests many of these early humans called Denisovans existed in what is now southern Siberia, researchers say.

In 2008, scientists unearthed a finger bone and teeth in Denisova cave in Siberia's Altai Mountains that belonged to lost relatives now known as the Denisovans (dee-NEE-soh-vens). Analysis of DNA extracted from a finger bone from a young Denisovan girl suggested they shared a common origin with Neanderthals, but were nearly as genetically distinct from Neanderthals as Neanderthals were from living people.

A deeper understanding of extinct human lineages could shed light on modern human evolution. For instance, analysis of the Denisovan genome showed that Denisovans have contributed on the order of 5 percent of their DNA to the genomes of present-day people in Oceania, and about 0.2 percent to the genomes of Native Americans and mainland Asians. These DNA contributions not only signify interbreeding between the two groups (scientists have yet to definitively call Denisovans a separate species), but also may explain the origin of some traits of living humans. [See Photos of Denisovan Fossils and Siberian Cave]

"In Tibet, an adaptation to live at high altitudes where there is little oxygen in the air has been shown to come from Denisovans," said study co-author Svante Pääbo, an evolutionary geneticist at the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology in Leipzig, Germany.

Now scientists have analyzed two molars found in Denisova cave. Compared with the teeth of Neanderthals and modern humans, those Denisova teeth are very large and lack traits such as certain raised points on the crowns of molars, supporting the suggestion that Denisovans were distinct from both groups.

Analysis of the DNA from the two Denisovan molars, combined with previous analysis of the Denisovan finger bone, suggests that all three specimens belonged to three individuals of the same species. (The DNA from each specimen was different enough from the others to show they came from different individuals.)

"This is the first time we can look at genetic variation among Denisovan individuals," Pääbo told Live Science.

The researchers also found that while Denisovans were not as genetically diverse as present-day humans, Denisovans were slightly more genetically diverse than Neanderthals. This suggests "there must have been quite many of them over quite a long time," Pääbo said.

In addition, the genetic analysis revealed that DNA from one molar accumulated fewer mutations than the other tooth or the finger bone. This suggested that molar was on the order of 60,000 years older than the other two specimens, a difference that suggests "that the Denisovans were present in the Altai Mountains in southern Siberia over a very long time, or at least that they were there periodically over a long time," Pääbo said.

The scientists detailed their findings online today (Nov. 16) in the journal *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*.

- In Photos: New Human Ancestor Possibly Unearthed in Spanish Cave
- Au. Sediba Gallery: Anatomy of Humanity's Closest Relative
- Image Gallery: 3-Year-Old Human Ancestor Revealed

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Comments

wowlfie November 18, 2015, 7:21 AM

Were all just cavemen--some more than others.

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Saturday, August 8, 2015

The Mystery of Zora Burns.

Little Murders



Zora Burns

Missouri Burns, better known as Zora, was nineteen years old when she left her father's home in St. Elmo, Illinois, to work as a domestic for the family of Orrin A. Carpenter, the richest man in Lincoln, Illinois. Carpenter was a grain dealer who owned a huge grain elevator as well as a farm and other real estate in Logan County. He was fifty years old with a wife and two daughters.

In newspaper reports, Zora Burns was described as a beautiful and captivating young woman: "Abundant hair of yellow-golden tint clustered about features as perfectly regular as those which Phidias chiseled from the marble of Greece. Her form was grace and symmetry personified, and despite her lack of educational advantages, her natural tact and quickness of intellect atoned in great measure for her deficiencies." It is not surprising that Mr. Carpenter soon became infatuated with his young servant.

But Zora was not happy with her situation; she was earning \$1.50 per week and wanted more. When she threatened to leave over the low wages, Carpenter bought her an expensive pair of shoes and agreed to pay her an extra dollar a week provided she did not tell his wife about the gift or the raise. This placated Zora for a while, but she returned to her father's house after working less than a year for the Carpenters.

There was another reason Zora went back home, she was engaged to be married at the end of October. Her older sister was married to a man named Bill Dukes in Wayne, Illinois, and on a visit Zora met his brother Bill. The two began a courtship and very soon decided to wed. The ceremony was to be on October 30, 1883.

Zora returned to Lincoln on Friday, October 12, telling her father that she was going to get

\$20.00 that Orrin Carpenter owed her. On Monday morning her body was found on the road outside of Lincoln, her head bruised and her throat cut from ear to ear. There was no apparent motive for the murder. The story received national press coverage and the crime was compared to the unsolved murder of Rose Ambler.

The first man suspected was Bill Dukes. Although he has promised to marry Zora Burns, it turned out that he was also engaged to marry Elizabeth Freal of Kewanee, Illinois. When he was questioned, the officer could see that he had injured his right hand and would not say how. Police in Wayne kept him under surveillance, although he had a convincing alibi and could not have been in Lincoln the weekend of the murder.

The post mortem examination of Zora's body was held in the utmost secrecy as was the coroner's inquest into the murder. Attempting to break the "awful secrecy of the star chamber inquest," reporters interviewed witnesses after their testimony. The first witness, O. A. Carpenter, would give them no information on advice of his attorneys. Other witnesses, however, spoke freely and reporters soon learned the reason for the secrecy—Zora Burns had been several month pregnant at the time of murder.

Rebecca Carpenter (no relation to Orrin Carpenter) testified that she had seen letters from Orrin Carpenter to Zora, proving that they had been intimate. Zora's father also had letters from Carpenter to Zora, some of which, he said, had contained money. Mrs. Dengler, at whose house, on the outskirts of Lincoln, Zora had stayed after leaving the Carpenters, testified that Zora told her she was pregnant and that Orrin Carpenter was the cause. He had given her money and presents, and told Zora that he loved her more than his wife.

Carpenter was known to have seen Zora at his office the night of Saturday, October 13, and was believed to have been the last person to see her alive. His buggy was examined; blood stains were found on the seats, and in the cushion were hairpins of the type used by Zora Burns. On the strength of this evidence, Orrin Carpenter was arrested on suspicion of murder.

Contradictory evidence began arriving from outside of Lincoln. Two young men sold some rings to a jeweler in Cambridge City, Indiana. After they left, the jeweler noticed the name Zora Burns on one of the rings. Police in Hampton, Iowa, had a man in custody who confessed that he had been hired to kill Zora Burns. Nothing more came from either of these clues, but they took the spotlight off of Carpenter and supplied the jury with reasonable doubt. The coroner's jury found that Zora Burns was murdered by a person or persons unknown. Carpenter was released on \$10,000 bail, pending a grand jury investigation.

The people of Lincoln were not happy with this finding. It was known that some of the men on the jury were business associates and fellow lodge members of Carpenter. Many believed that Carpenter had hired detectives to manufacture evidence. Fear of lynching was so strong that the State Militia was put on alert, but there was no violence at Carpenter's release.

In January 1884, a grand jury indicted Orrin Carpenter for the murder of Zora Burns and he

was taken into custody again. But when he was tried for the murder that March, the jury was not convinced by the circumstantial evidence against Carpenter and their verdict was not guilty.

Though acquitted by law, Orrin Carpenter was convicted by the court of public opinion and this time the people of Lincoln were not going to sit still. Soon after the verdict, the following circular was distributed throughout the town:

"Citizens of Logan County – All lovers of law and order in Logan county are respectfully invited to meet in mass meeting, Wednesday the 28, inst., at the court house in Lincoln for the purpose of expressing their views on the subject of crime, and upon the recent trial of Orrin A. Carpenter. All persons who are in favor of the enforcement of the law and prompt punishment of criminals are invited to attend."

It was signed: "Many Citizens."

The meeting was held and some four thousand citizens solemnly agreed to banish Orrin A. Carpenter from Logan County. A notice was served on Carpenter in person by a committee of seventy-five people. Carpenter protested his innocence and refused to recognize the group's authority. But any thoughts of remaining in town left him in December when Zora's father, William Burns, opened fire on him. The gunshots missed Carpenter, but they persuaded him to accept the reality of the situation and he moved his family from Illinois to Dakota Territory. Carpenter's defense had been costly, and it was reported that his once ample fortune had shrunk to a quarter section of farming land.

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Mystery purple slime coats Norway fjord

The slime has been described as "a plague" by local fishermen. Photo: Roger Larsen/ University in Tromsø.

Mystery purple slime coats Norway fjord

AFP · 10 Nov 2015, 14:12

Published: 10 Nov 2015 14:12 GMT+01:00

A mysterious purple slime has emerged off the coast of

northern Norway, coating millions of cubic meters of a picturesque fjord with a strange mucoid, margarine-like substance.

"We have not been able to find out what this really is, other than that we are talking about large amounts of jellyfish," Roger Larsen, associate professor at the University in Tromsø, told state news broadcaster NRK on Sunday.

"The images we are picking up from the echo sounders and other equipment are totally atypical. We have tried to gather information to find the answers, but I am absolutely sure that this is something we've never seen before."

Larsen, who has been surveying the emergence of the slime since fishermen first began reporting it in late August, said that the substance had collected in a 200m wide belt around the Lyngen Fjord.

"We are talking about millions of cubic metres," he said.

On Monday, Tone Falkenhaus and Jan Helge Fosså, oceanographers at Norway's Institute of Marine Research (IMR) argued that the slime might have been caused by a gigantic bloom of cigar comb jellies which had then partially disintegrated.

"It's probably dead or partially dead jellyfish, and we think it's the kind of jellyfish we think it is called Ctenophora Beroe," Falkenhaus told The Local. "We can't explain why it is like this, but it's not uncommon that jellyfish appear in very dense aggregations like this, especially deep in the fjord."

She said that while she had herself never seen a bloom of jellyfish breaking down into a mucoid substance, the phenomenon had been documented elsewhere.

"I have heard that you can get this when it's rotten, that you get this purple mucous from jellyfish. If you have dense blooms of jellyfish, and they fall down into the water column and they start to disintegrate."

AFP (news@thelocal.no)

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Mystery sea creature - with 'fur' and 'a beak' - washes up on remote Russian beach, baffling scientists

Some say the 'mutant' is a Ganges River dolphin - but are confused by its fur

- Wednesday 1 July 2015
- 9 comments



copyright=3680316 (via The Siberian Times) END copyright=3680316

copyright=3680326 This Ganges River dolphin washed killed by local fisherman in Nepal in 2008 (via BHIM GHIMIRE/AFP/Getty Images) END copyright=3680326

A mystery sea creature – with a 'long beak' and 'furry tail' – is said to be baffling marine experts over the world after its carcass reportedly washed up on a beach along the east coast of Russia.

The Siberian Times says the unidentified sea animal was discovered by locals near Shakhtersk Airport on Sakhalin – a Russian island that is so far east, it is closer to America than Moscow.

Bloodied, torn apart and with bones protruding, scientists say they have yet to attempt to identify the strange prehistoric-like "mutant."

The Times describes it as being "twice the size of a human being" with "a huge nose like a bird's beak."



creature2.jpg

Some people have taken to social media to say the remains belong to a Ganges River dolphin – which is normally found in freshwater in India, Pakistan, Nepal and Bangladesh – but it's the presence of fur on the creature's tail that's causing a fuss.

One social media user joked: "Probably, our summer is so cold that even the Indian

dolphins getting into local waters are covered with fur.”

Deputy Head of the Forecasting department of the Sakhalin Research Institute of Fisheries and Oceanography, Nikolay Kim, said: “Judging by the appearance of the head, this is clearly some big dolphin. According to a characteristic of the skin, it is a rare species.



dolphin.jpg

“I doubt that it lived in our waters. Most likely, the animal was brought by the warm current.

“We often get tropical and subtropical species here and, when they cool down, they stay here and then die.

“I can confidently say that this is some kind of a dolphin. However, it has fur. It’s unusual. Dolphins do not have any fur.”

For now, though, the mystery remains.

Comments

123 days ago

psimin

it is 100% a dolphin you muppets. you must have heard about EVOLUTION yes ? right now think about this , we are entering climate change according to these scientists so it makes sense this is a dolphin ready for the cold and growing a fur coat as already been suggested , so here we have a classic example of EVOLUTION and CLIMATE CHANGE...don't argue with me on this argue with the scientists PERIOD !

(edited)132 days ago

TopBunny

<http://doubtfulnews.com/2015/06/russian-mystery-monster-carcass-busted/>

(edited)134 days ago

abitbored

The mystery of my missing wife has been solved!

(edited)135 days ago

jimbobbmarley

Despite at first hoping that we had witnessed a very rare case of atavism, I'm now pretty sure it's just a sensationalised, decomposing, upsidedown whale!

(edited)135 days ago

Nimrod Maximus

Putinosaurus

(edited)135 days ago

idoubtit

You just repeated what was in the story without any checking. It is clearly a beaked whale.

This has happened in the same location many times before and it's not an exotic species. It would be better to ask someone knowledgeable about animals before wildly speculating.
<http://doubtfulnews.com/2015/06/russian-mystery-monster-carcass-busted/>

(edited)135 days ago

Rhistonecowboy

idoubtit, My post was supposed to be ironic (Alluding to the habit of the Independent always blaming Putin for everything) Anyway, thanks for the link - Very informative article and I really enjoyed your website. Keep up the good work!

Incidentally my post was

(edited)136 days ago

Rhistonecowboy

If it is true that this animal was washed ashore on Russian soil, why is the Independent not blaming Putin for its death? Another golden opportunity missed.

(edited)136 days ago

Ivan from Siberia

it simply test a new species of dolphins in fight against the West.

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QUEST OF DEADLY MONSTER

EXPLORER'S JUNGLE ADVENTURE

Mr. Richard Hamilton, the young explorer and film producer, is going into the jungle to search for the man-killing Nandi bear.

For a month he will live in the unexplored regions of the Nandi Forest, Upper Kenya, exposed to the lurking dangers of tigers and snakes. These, however, are not

THE WORST PERILS.

The jungle is supposed to be haunted by spooks, and all who enter it are believed to be doomed.

It is here, however, that the Nandi bear is thought to exist. Guarded by the fear which keeps the natives far from its home, no one has yet seen this animal. But footprints have been observed by white hunters, who are unable to account for their strange shape.

The prints, they said, were larger than those of a lion, and like those of the

GREAT CAT FAMILY.

Natives have been killed at the edge of the jungle by some animal as big as a polar bear, which has dropped on them from the trees above.

Mr. Hamilton will leave by air from Croydon bound for Kitale, where he will pick up two white hunters, who will accompany him on the 200-mile trek to the Nandi country.

"I am fascinated by the story of this strange monster," he added, "and that is what has compelled me to hunt for it."

BY Nancy Dillon

NEW YORK DAILY NEWS

Updated: Friday, November 20, 2015, 7:44 PM



Carl Sabatino believes that the artwork he found underneath his aunt's sewing machine at her home in Staten Island is a long-lost Picasso painting worth millions.

He's been brushed off before, but Carl Sabatino believes a work of unearthed from his aunt's crawlspace in Staten Island is a long lost Picasso worth more than \$10 million.

The New Jersey broadcast executive is now on a mission to prove the piece he found stashed under his late aunt's sewing machine is a recreation of Pablo Picasso's "Woman with a Cape" that the artist rendered himself decades after his original, Sabatino told the Daily News.

He said his aunt Jenny Verastro likely suspected the work's pedigree and pointed him to her hidden treasure while lying on her deathbed in March 2004.



courtesy

The recreation now is being analyzed by a forensic expert in Washington who hopes to make a definitive comparison with a Picasso fingerprint taken from a plaster cast of the painter's hand.

"Three days before she passed on, she told me, 'Don't forget, Carl, to look under the sewing machine,'" he recalled.

"As I moved the sewing machine, it came sliding right out into my lap. I was stunned," he said. "I found it wrapped in newspaper. That started this adventure 12 years ago."

Sabatino said his uncle Nicky Verastro purchased the artwork in 1944 from a street vendor in London for about \$10 while serving as a soldier during World War II.

He suspects it came from a nearby gallery that had been bombed or looted.

The work depicts a woman in an elaborate, feathered hat and is an obvious replica of Picasso's 1901 painting "Woman with a Cape" that hangs in the Cleveland Museum of Art.

An expert at Christie's in New York dismissed Sabatino's version as a cheap knock-off when she met him at his lawyer's office shortly after the sewing machine discovery, he said.

"She examined it for about 30 seconds and literally flipped it back at me and said, 'This is a \$10 poster, don't waste your time,'" he recalled.

"I said, 'Okay, but where did it come from in your opinion? It's in color,'" he recalled.

Color photography and printing were exotic mediums in war-plagued Europe at that time, he said.

"She gave me a deer-in-the-headlights look. She didn't have an answer," he said of the Christie's expert.



WNBC

"This is a treasure hunt for me, for the love of my family," Sabatino told The News on Friday.

Sabatino started researching Pablo Picasso and found evidence he experimented with a color printing technique that involved gum bichromate in 1936.

Sabatino turned to an art analyst named Dr. Kenneth

Smith, president of the Center for Art Materials Analysis in Westmont, Ill., to see if the materials used in his piece matched his theory.

Smith used a needle to extract some pigment and studied it under a microscope, according to NBC 4 News, which first reported the story.

He found it was consistent with materials used in Europe in the 1930s and also verified that a partial right thumb print was left on the work, possibly left by Picasso himself, Sabatino said.

The recreation now is being analyzed by a forensic expert in Washington who hopes to make a definitive comparison with a Picasso fingerprint taken from a plaster cast of the painter's hand.

Sabatino also got an art appraiser specializing in Picasso pieces to hang his reputation on his belief the Staten Island find is the real deal.

Richard Beau Lieu in Boynton Beach, Fla., reportedly appraised the art for \$13 million.

"It's terribly significant," Beau Lieu told NBC 4 News. "I'm convinced this is the real deal."

"This is a treasure hunt for me, for the love of my family," Sabatino told The News on Friday.

"This is a story of redemption for my family. They protected this and bequeathed it to me to find the truth."

7 Comments

(edited)19 hours ago

Hitman 1975

I understand his desire to seek the truth. It is part of his heritage. Not ONLY about the money.

(edited)18 hours ago

James Gilmartin

He has been "seeking the truth" for over eleven years!

(edited)6 hours ago

Noo Yoka Noo Yoka

Even if it isn't a forgery, it's stolen property and has to be returned to the owner. No millions for him. A finder's fee, maybe.

(edited)1 day ago

Alexa Ortiz

"For the love of my family"? Yeah, right. It's ONLY because it could conceivably be worth tens of millions. THATS the only reason.

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How New Zealand was saved from prohibition by its soldiers after World War I

lordsofthedrinks.com

by Micky Bumbar (Lords of the Drinks)



Soldiers from New Zealand having a well-deserved break during World War I. They would book their biggest victory by saving their country from complete abstinence in 1919.

The First World War was for New Zealand the period of national awakening. The country with back then just over a million inhabitants in total sent more than 100.000 soldiers and nurses to the frontline. Many of them gave their life in the Battle of Gallipoli or at the Western Front. But their most important battle was yet to come. While these brave 'kiwis' were fighting on the other end of the world, the

cowards of the New Zealand Temperance Movement back home tried to push through a nationwide prohibition of alcohol sales. By a referendum they even seemed to accomplish their goal, until the votes of the troops stationed abroad were counted.

New Zealand is named by many as one of the most beautiful places on Earth. And you don't have to watch the full Lord of the Rings trilogy to figure out why, a few minutes is already enough. The landscapes are simply breathtaking. What better place to grab yourself a beer and enjoy the view, right? Well, things could have been completely different if it was up to the New Zealand Temperance Movement, an evil organisation that tried for decades to cut the inhabitants off from alcohol.

The Temperance Movement was formed by the many protestant immigrants that came from Western Europe. You know, religious freaks who say that the same Jesus they claim to follow, was wrong when he said people should drink wine. In fact, the Temperance Movement decided it was best if nobody would be able to have a drink anymore. And unfortunately for the sane people in New Zealand this lobby got quite powerful too. With their own newspaper, they brainwashed the people with propaganda and tried to get them to vote for politicians that openly supported prohibition, rather than to follow a party line.

In 1911 they finally had enough politicians to agree on a national referendum. In order to get a prohibition on alcohol sales, at least 60% of the voters had to agree with this. With 55.8% a majority voted for a dry New Zealand, but it wasn't enough.

Three years later World War I started and as part of the British Empire, New Zealand dived right in as soon as England declared war on Germany. One tenth of the population joined, either in battle or as a nurse. When the 'Great War' ended in 1918, New Zealand lost 16.697

people on the battlefield, while 41.317 returned wounded. More than a thousand of those people would die within 5 years as a result of their injuries. Just to say, the First World War had scarred the population of just over a million in a horrible way.



Soldiers from New Zealand receive their daily rum ration in World War I.

While brave men and women were risking their lives on the battlefields on the other side of the world, the cowards of the Temperance Movement stayed behind and tried their best to demoralise the troops, as well as their relatives back home. They started a lobby to cut the soldiers off from alcohol completely. A strategy that could have been disastrous, as was shown by the Russian troops of Tsar Nicholas II. The Temperance Movement also demanded total abstinence in the homeland 'at least during the war' to establish 'national efficiency'. The government did not want to go as far as a total prohibition, but no bar could

be open after 6 o'clock in the evening. This idiotic rule that was known as the Six o'clock swill stayed until 1967 (!).

As soon as the Great War was over, the prohibition supporters got themselves another referendum. Like many other countries after World War I, including of course the United States of America, New Zealand seemed to be heading for a dry spell, especially since this time 50% of the votes would be enough to pass a law to prohibit all alcohol sales. With the majority of the votes counted it was almost a tie, with a small advantage for the prohibition supporters. The 40.000 votes of the troops that were still stationed abroad turned out to be decisive.

It became their most glorious victory of the past 5 years. About 80 to 90% of the troops voted for a 'well hydrated New Zealand' and with that they saved their country from all the drama that would follow in the United States during their prohibition: an enormous loss of tax money, increased crime rate and a terrible economic crisis. As many New Zealanders saw how prohibition in the US became a disaster, the Temperance Movement slowly lost support. The threat of complete abstinence was avoided, thanks to a few thirsty soldiers who reduced the amount of 'yays' for prohibition to 49%, just 1% too short to ruin a piece of paradise on Earth.

Micky Bumbar

4 thoughts on "How New Zealand was saved from prohibition by its soldiers after World War I"

1. PorterGirl says:

November 11, 2015 at 4:32 pm

Soldiers are brilliant.

- Micky Bumbar (Lords of the Drinks) says:

November 11, 2015 at 4:42 pm

Would not want to come home after the dirtiest war ever and not even be able to have a drink.

■ PorterGirl says:

November 11, 2015 at 5:13 pm

Wouldn't want to come home after going shopping and not be able to have a drink ;) But if anyone deserved a drink – it's those chaps!

■ Micky Bumbar (Lords of the Drinks) says:

November 11, 2015 at 5:13 pm

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Saturday, March 21, 2015

The Nicely Brothers.

3 comments



Brothers Joe and Dave Nicely were the prime suspects in the robbery and murder of Herman Umberger in his home in Jennertown, Pennsylvania on February 27, 1889. They were arrested, identified by eye witnesses, convicted and condemned to death. But the Nicelys maintained their innocence and tried every means possible—legal and otherwise—to avoid punishment, including: two legal appeals, two pardon board appearances, a direct appeal to the governor, two jailbreaks, conspiracy to suborn witnesses, framing of other suspects, and feigning

insanity. None of it worked.

Date: February 27, 1889

Location: Jennertown, Pennsylvania

Victim: Herman Umberger

Cause of Death: Gunshot

Accused: Joseph and David Nicely

Synopsis:

The Umberger family had settled in for a quiet evening at home, on Wednesday night, February 27, 1889. In the sitting room were Herman Umberger, age 67; his 70-year-old wife, Nancy; Ella Stone, the hired girl; and Mrs. Umberger's 10-year-old granddaughter, Nannie (or Nana) Horner. The night was cold and rainy in Jennertown, Pennsylvania, and the family was surprised to hear a knock on the farmhouse door at 7:00.

Two men were at the door, one taller than the other. No one in the family recognized them, but the men knew where they were; the shorter man said, "Good evening, Mr. Umberger," and asked if they could come in and get warm. Herman Umberger invited them in, offered them chairs by the stove, and had Ella put more wood in the fire.



HERMAN UMBERGER.

The taller man had his face tied up with two handkerchiefs. The shorter man, who did all of the talking, said that he had broken his jaw falling out of a buggy. The shorter one, Mrs. Umberger would comment later, was wearing gray wig and a false gray beard. When they were comfortably seated, he explained the reason for their visit. He said that they were constables from Bedford and they had a warrant to search all the houses in the area for some jewelry that had been stolen from a peddler.

Mr. Umberger agreed to let them search, and Ella got a candle to light the way to the Umberger's bedroom. He opened several bureau drawers and showed them the contents. In one drawer were two pocketbooks, Umberger explained that he kept a little cash on hand to pay the hired hands. The man said they were looking for jewels, not money, but to be safe, Umberger took the pocketbooks and put them in his vest. In fact, the pocketbooks contained Umberger's life savings, at least \$17,000. He was extremely distrustful of banks and carried the pocketbooks in his bootlegs every day and kept them in the bureau drawer at night.



Mrs. UMBERGER.

When they were back in the kitchen, the man drew a revolver and said to Umberger, "Your money or your life." Ella Stone ran screaming out of the house. Mrs. Umberger went outside and started ringing the "harvest bell," the bell they used in the summer to summon the hired hands. On a February night it would serve as an alarm for the neighbors. Little Nannie stood in the corner and watched as the man fired five shots into her grandfather. The two men fled the house, taking the pocketbooks with them.

A large crowd gathered at the Umberger home that night. Herman Umberger's brother Perry announced that the family would offer a \$2,000 reward for the return of the money and \$500 for the arrest and conviction of the murderer. While a coroner's inquest was held and a post mortem examination of the body was performed, four constables followed footprints in the snow left by the killers, over the mountain and down the western slope of Laurel Hill toward the town of Ligonier. Around midnight they stopped at the house of Collins Hamilton and there they found two loaded revolvers and twenty dollars under his pillow. They also found the false whiskers the killer had worn. They arrested Hamilton and took him away in handcuffs.

The following day, however, evidence emerged against two other suspects, Joseph and David Nicely. The Nicely brothers were men of bad reputation, who had both served time in the Western Penitentiary and were believed to be the leaders of a gang of desperados operating in the area. They were arrested and taken to the Umbergers for identification. When they saw David Nicely dressed in overalls and an overcoat, Mrs. Umberger and Miss Stern felt sure he was one of the men, but when they heard Joe Nicely speak, they knew,



JOSEPH NICELY.

without question, he was the killer. The men were searched, and in David's pocket was a red handkerchief with white spots that Ella Stern instantly recognized it as one that David had been wearing around his face.

Collins Hamilton was also taken to the Umbergers' but none of the women recognized him. After a brief hearing he was released. Dave and Joe Nicely were arraigned and charged with murder.



DAVID NICELY.

On March 25, Anthony Nicely, father of Joe and Dave, was arrested as an accessory after the fact in the murder of Herman Umberger. He was found in possession of one of the pocketbooks that had been stolen, identified by a distinctive white spot at one end.

Trial: May 27, 1889

While the Nicely brothers were awaiting trial, they allegedly formulated a conspiracy to try to throw suspicion on two other men. Detective Howard of a local detective agency claimed to have unearthed a plot to plant the gray wig in Collins Hamilton's house and one of the pocketbooks, containing \$11,000 in the house of a man named Joseph Hoffman. A detective named Charles Beegle was to arrest them the day before the trial and bring the evidence to court, thus proving the Nicelys not guilty. The story was printed in a Pittsburg newspaper and picked up by several others. The Nicelys and their attorneys vehemently denied the story, but H. F. Kooser of the prosecution believed that there was a conspiracy afoot. In any case, publication of the story eliminated the possibility of any conspiracy being carried out.

When the trial of the Nicely brothers began, hundreds of people came from all over Pennsylvania to watch; most had to stand outside the courtroom and wait for news. Inside the courtroom, more than a hundred witnesses would give testimony. The most important of these were the women at the Umberger's house the night of February 27, and of these, the most persuasive was young Nannie Horner. She remembered detailed descriptions of the men's clothing, such as brown patch on the right side of a grey overcoat, two buttons missing, and three frayed button holes. The coat itself, taken from the Nicelys's home and kept in isolation until the trial, matched the description perfectly. On cross examination, the defense attorney tried to confuse her into giving conflicting testimony, but Nannie's testimony remained constant. She also picked out both of the Nicelys, from a row of men, and identified them as the strangers she saw that night.



NANNIE HORNER.

The Nicelys were well represented at their trial. Their attorneys, W. H. Koontz and Alexander Coffroth were both former congressmen. They tried to prove the footprints in the snow could not have been made by the boots the Nicelys wore, and introduced more than a dozen witnesses who saw the Nicelys elsewhere that night.

After nine days of trial, the jury deliberated for only a short time before returning a verdict of guilty. However, not understanding the technicalities of the court, the jury did not specifically express the crime of which the defendants were guilty. The judge sent them back to rewrite their verdict, and the defense objected, saying the verdict had already been read. The jury came back with a verdict of guilty of

murder in the first degree. The defense asked that the jury be polled, and each man declared the Nicelys guilty of murder in the first degree.

Verdict: Guilty of first degree murder

Aftermath:

On the grounds of the irregularity in the jury's rendering of the verdict, Mr. Koontz filed a motion for a new trial. The motion was argued on August 13 and 14. On August 18 the judge ruled against the Nicelys, and refused a new trial. The same day, Joseph and David Nicely were sentenced to hang, "on such day and time as may be appointed by the Governor of the Commonwealth." The following day the Nicelys' attorneys filed an appeal to the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, to be heard the following October.

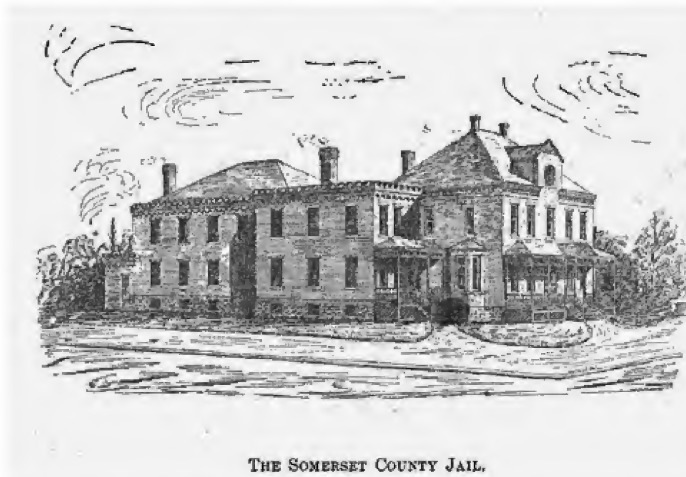
While Koontz was hard at work on gaining the Nicelys release by legal means, Joe and Dave were working on means of their own. At noon on September 16, the brothers made a bold dash for liberty and during the scuffle Joe Nicely shot and killed Deputy Sheriff Milton R. McMillen. The Nicelys ran out the front door, scaled the iron fence around the jail and fled into the woods.

The town mobilized immediately and a well-armed posse, estimated to be 500 strong, took to the woods to find the escaped prisoners. The Nicelys were soon recaptured and ropes were procured for lynching but, with some difficulty, cooler heads prevailed and the Nicelys were taken back to jail.

The appeal was argued before that Pennsylvania Supreme court, citing some technical errors with the testimony as well as the irregularities regarding the verdict. On November 11, the court ruled that there were no errors in the trial and upheld the verdict.

On April 15, 1890, Mr. Koontz represented the Nicelys, who were still professing innocence in the Umberger murder, before the Board of Pardons, attempting to have their sentences commuted. The board denied the request. On November 12, they appeared before the

appeals board again, this time with some new evidence against another man, including a suit of clothes, a double barreled shotgun, and some revolvers. This request was denied as well.



The Nicely brothers were being held in a new jail in Somerset, Pennsylvania, reputed to be one of the strongest in the country. On November 29, the Nicelys and two other men proved this to be untrue when they broke out of the jail, sliding down a rope to the ground fifty feet below. A fifth prisoner attempted the escape but was fatally injured in the fall. The sheriff offered a \$200 reward for the Nicely's capture and a posse of 100 men scoured the countryside. Two days later Dave Nicely was found under

some hay in a stable, an arm and a leg broken from the fall, and nearly dead from exposure. The following day, a local farmer, Jonathan Barclay, found Joe Nicely hiding in his barn. With the help of two neighbors he brought Joe back to jail.

On January 10, the Nicely brothers and their attorneys took their case directly to Pennsylvania Governor James A. Beaver, appealing to him to withhold the death warrant. They presented the Governor with a number of new pieces of evidence: they had affidavits stating that some of the witnesses who identified them have since stated that they were mistaken; and from Joseph Nicely's physician declaring that he suffered from heart disease and could not have gone so far from home in such a storm without becoming seriously ill; Mrs. Nicely swore that David took supper and spent the evening with her; a blacksmith swore he saw David late on the night of the murder; the governor and board of pardons received anonymous letters protesting that the Nicelys were innocent; and they had an affidavit from a man named Beech who confessed to the murder of Herman Umberger and a chain of facts to substantiate the confession. But the governor was not moved. On January 21, the day before the expiration of his term, Governor Beaver signed the death warrant. The Nicely brothers were scheduled to hang on April 2, 1891.

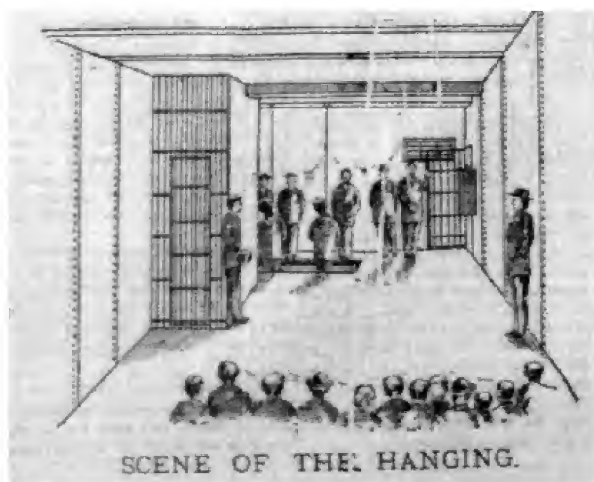
As they awaited execution, the Nicelys continued their quest for freedom. In early March, a dozen steel saws, nine inches in length, were found in the cells of Joe and Dave Nicely. The sheriff was greatly disturbed over the discovery, saying that no one was allowed to see or speak to the condemned men but their attorneys and relatives, the latter in the presence of an officer. In the weeks leading up to the execution they attempted to place the blame for the Umberger murder on someone else. Mrs. Nicely charged local constables and private detectives with conspiring to pin the murder on her boys. John Myers, "a reputable citizen of homestead" claimed that a desperado named Fitzsimmons, arrested for murdering Detective Gilkeson, was the real killer of Umberger.

Dr. H. L. Orth examined Joseph Nicely at the request of his father and his attorney, to

determine Joseph's sanity. Since his recapture Joseph has suffered fits of depression and when the board of pardons refused to rehear his case, "his present imbecility followed" he had not spoken a word since that date. Dr. Orth was skeptical, but after examining Joe he reported to the new governor that, "I undoubtedly believe him to be insane, and a proper person to be committed to the care of an insane hospital." The governor issued no reply.

On April 1, the day before the execution, Elder Calvin W. Granger, of the Somerset Disciple Church visited David Nicely and convinced him that it was time to worry about his soul. At 11:00 that morning Elder Granger baptized David Nicely in a bathtub in the exercise corridor of the jail, in the presence of members of Granger's church, lawmen, prisoners, reporters and a court stenographer. Then David Nicely had his first and last communion. After the ceremony he said, "It seems like a mockery, to have reveled in sin through a life, and to ask the Lord to take me; but O! I'll lean on His mercy."

The following morning Joe Nicely snapped out of his abnormal mental state (or as the *Somerset Herald* put it, "Joe Abandons the Insanity Dodge.") As if waking from a dream, he asked "How did I get into this cell?" and "What day is it." Elder Granger went to work on his soul as well, but with less success than he had with Dave. However, by 10:00, Joe came around, and amid hymn singing and deep prayer, Joe took communion with Rev. A. J. Beal of the Evangelical Association Church.



The gallows were built into the Somerset Jail, with traps in the floor, allowing the condemned men to fall into the room below. In the yard outside of the jail, thousands of people stood and waited for the execution. At 12:45 the prisoners were transferred from their cells to the west corridor and after another service of prayer and singing, the Nicelys said their last goodbyes. At 1:37 the traps were sprung; fourteen minutes later they were pronounced dead.

Publicly, the Nicely brothers and their attorneys maintained their innocence to the end, however

following the execution, Elder Granger produced David Nicely's written confession. In the confession, transcribed by the Elder and signed by David Niceley, he admitted that, contrary to all of his previous testimony, he was at the house of Herman Umberger on the night of January 27, 1889. He was there to rob him, not murder him. He fired his pistol once into the ceiling to frighten Umberger, but did not fire any shot that hit him. Though he did not say it explicitly, everyone assumed that the he meant the shots that killed Umberger were fired by his brother Joe. Many believed that Joe had also confessed, prior to receiving communion from Rev. Beal, but this was never confirmed.

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3 comments :

Rick C says:

May 22, 2015 at 2:53 PM

I was looking through some old boxes of mine recently and came across two old photographs that are directly related to this story. They are, in fact the photos depicted in the drawings of Joseph and David Nicely at the top of the story. They are from a photographer in Indiana, PA named J.B. Clark. There's no date on the pictures anywhere, but they are both signed by the Nicelys. I'm not sure if they would be worth anything, but it sure was interesting to read the story about them. If you're interested in seeing them, I would be happy to scan them and email you a copy.

Robert Wilhelm says:

May 24, 2015 at 10:15 AM

Rick, I would love to see the pictures! You can send the scanned images to info@murderbygaslight.com

Thank you,
Robert Wilhelm

Rick C says:

June 11, 2015 at 11:52 AM

Sorry I didn't see this post earlier Robert. I sent the photos to the email address you provided.

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North Korean Interiors Look Exactly Like a Wes Anderson Film Set

7deadlymag.com



North Korean Interiors Look Exactly Like a Wes Anderson Film Set



What It's Like to Vacation in North Korea



North Korea Photos

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By The Miscreants Lust November 18, 2015

North Korean Interiors Look Exactly Like a Wes Anderson Film Set

When most of us think of North Korea, we picture grey cement buildings looming against a cold, unforgiving sky. Not bright rooms cheerfully decorated with candy-colored walls and furniture. Yet, when London-based architecture critic Oliver Wainwright toured the country, he was stunned by the painstaking symmetry and pastel interiors of several buildings.

The sites along his very monitored tour ranged from offices to magnificent theaters, each meticulously arranged in Soviet-era design or as Wainwright observed, "a Wes Anderson film set."

In a story for the *Guardian*, he wrote:

In every refurbished building we visit, there is a peculiarly consistent style of preschool colour schemes and shiny synthetic surfaces, the pastel palettes and axial symmetry giving an eerie feeling of walking into a Wes Anderson film set, or a life-size Polly Pocket

toy... kindergarten kitsch is the logical next step for a regime intent on projecting an image of carefree prosperity. It is architecture as anaesthetic, a powerful tool for the state to infantilise its people.

Photos from his trip can be found on the tumblr North Korean Interiors. The motive behind the orderly interiors? In the 160-page treatise *On Architecture* (published 1991), Kim Jong-il



Inside North Korea

rationalizes that the purpose of “harmonising all the city’s architectural space is the focus on the leader’s statue and ensuring that the statue plays the leading role in the architectural formation of the city.” The symmetrical aesthetic ensures that any portraits or statues of North Korean leaders appear larger than life among the sea of color-coded objects.

However, Wainwright also notes the scenes beyond the mirage, aka photography-prohibited areas:

“Abandoned factories stand rusting next to crumbling concrete apartments, without the cheerful hues. We pass a scene of ragged children playing in the river, while shaven-headed men in striped prison uniforms toil in the fields beyond, watched over by soldiers.”

WHAT: Churro Dog MADE OF: A crunchy cinnamon churro nestled inside a Long John chocolate-glazed donut covered in frozen yogurt topped with a thoughtful helping of whipped

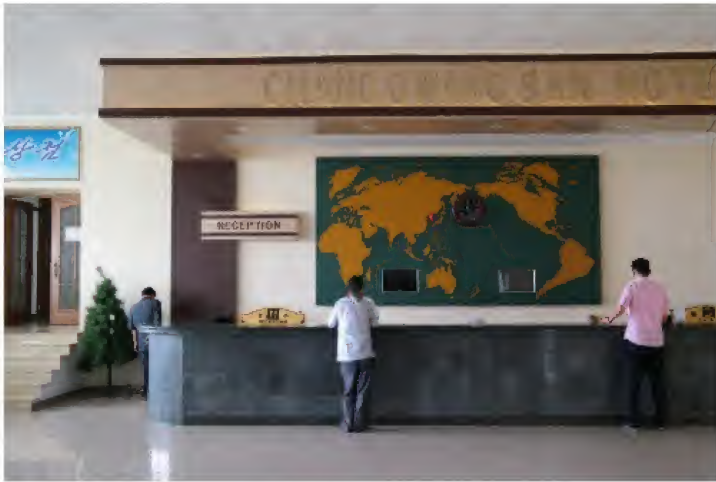
cream drizzled in caramel and chocolate sauce. The carb-on-carb action hauls in a calorie count of 1,117, making a...



Inside North Korea



Inside North Korea



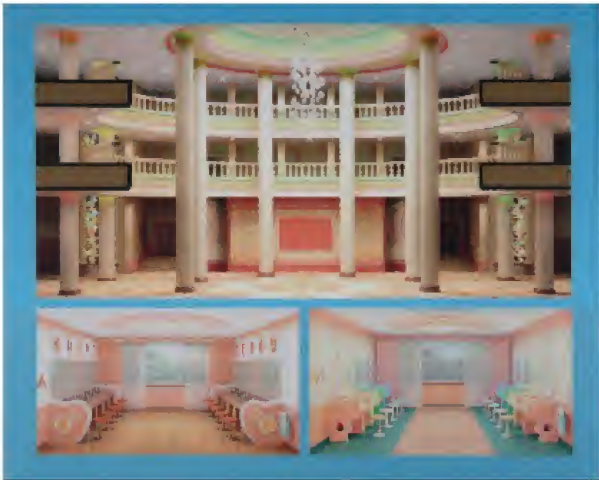
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North-Korea-Interior-12



North-Korea-Interior-10



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Saturday, May 16, 2015

The Northwood Murderer.



Franklin B. Evans

When senseless a murder occurred with no obvious suspects, a community's worst fear was that some transient had drifted into town, done his dirty work and left without a trace. The roads of rural America, in the ninetieth century, were filled with tramps; some were honest men looking for work in hard economic times, others were aimless ne'er-do-wells, running from or heading toward trouble. When these men turned to murder they were likely to get away without capture and were prone to kill again. But every now and then a wandering killer was caught and his whole bloody itinerary made public. Such was the case of Franklin B. Evans, known as the Northwood Murderer.

Dates: October 30, 1850 & October 25, 1872

Locations: Derry, New Hampshire & Northwood, New Hampshire

Confessed Victims: 5-yr-old daughter of Stephen Mills & Georgianna Lovering

Cause of Death: Strangulation

Accused: Franklin B. Evans

Synopsis:

On October 30, 1850, in the town of Derry, New Hampshire, the five-year-old daughter of Stephen Mills, one of a set of twins, was kidnapped from her home. The parents had left them alone and someone had climbed through a window into the house and taken the girl. Mills offered what he could afford, a \$100 reward for her return. The police had suspects but no evidence, and no trace of the missing girl was ever found.

Twelve years later, in the town of Strong, Maine, near Augusta, on the morning of September 14, 1862, nine-year-old Lura Ville Libby walked to church alone. She never returned. A search began at 4:00 Sunday afternoon, and the next day her body was found buried under the turf in the woods about half a mile from her home. Her dress had been removed and she had been raped; her head was cut and bruised and her throat slashed, nearly severing the head.

The murder, of course, caused intense excitement in the town of Strong, and a citizen's committee promptly offered a \$1,000 reward for the capture of the killer. Suspicion immediately fell on the Libby's farmhand, Lawrence Doyle, who had behaved strangely that morning and had explicitly asked Mr. Libby if he would be accompanying Lura to church. At the coroner's inquest a witness reported that Doyle had told him about a murder in Canada where the body was buried in the same way as Lura's. For these and other minor suspicions, Lawrence Doyle was held for trial.

The evidence presented at the trial was highly circumstantial and the jury was deadlocked, seven for conviction, five for acquittal. At his second trial, Doyle was convicted and was sentenced to hang. Doyle's attorney E. F. Pillsbury, was thoroughly convinced of his client's innocence, and helped him persuade the Governor and Executive Council to commute his sentence to life in prison. When Doyle died in prison two years later, Pillsbury continued the fight to exonerate him and find the real killer.

In 1865 in the town of Roxbury, Massachusetts (which became part of Boston three years later), two children, John and Isabella Joyce, were found dead in Bussey's Woods. John, age 12, and Isabella, age 14, were staying with their grandmother in Boston, and on Monday, June 12, told her they were going to take a horse car to nearby May's Woods to make wreathes. They were not seen again until their bodies were found the following Sunday. They apparently had missed their stop and taken the car to the end of the line.



The Body of Isabella Joyce.

The murder scene was horrific. Isabella had been raped, and the condition of her clothing indicated that she had put up a fight before succumbing. She was stabbed twenty-seven times in the abdomen, possibly an attempt to hide the fact that she had been raped. John, frozen with fear over what was happening to his sister, did not run until it was too late. He was also stabbed to death.

There were no witnesses, of course, but one woman remembered seeing a frightening stranger, with long, disheveled black hair, near Bussey's woods that day. The first suspect in this murder was Thomas Ainsley, a painter who had some connection to the Joyce family, but Ainsley had an alibi and was soon released. Early in July a number of tips pointed to a man named John Stewart who had been a bounty jumper during the Civil War. He would join an army unit for the bounty they were paying, then desert soon after. He had done this in nine different places. But it turned out that John Stewart also had an alibi for June 12.

It wasn't until the following March that the police had another viable suspect. A tramp named Charles Aaron Dodge, alias "Scratch Gravel," was being held in Fitchburg for house breaking. He gave the impression of being something more than a burglar, telling police, "I don't care a damn about being arrested for stealing that silver, but if you knew something I had done it would be a feather in your cap. This little thing of three months don't amount to anything." The police planted a detective in the Fitchburg jail who overheard enough loose talk from Scratch Gravel to charge him with the murder of the Joyce children. But Scratch Gravel was able to prove that he was not even in Massachusetts that day.

In December 1866 the skeleton of a man was found Needham Woods, not far from Boston, and a quantity of hair was found nearby which resembled the hair of the man seen in Bussey's woods the day of the murder. From this scant clew, the skeleton was postulated to be the man who killed the Joyce children. He had taken to the woods to elude capture and died there. While not everyone was satisfied with this conclusion, the case was essentially closed.

There was nothing to connect these three heinous New England crimes until October 25,



1872 when 13-year-old Georgianna Lovering, disappeared from her home in Northwood, New Hampshire. This time there was little question who was responsible—her 64-year-old great-uncle, Franklin Evans, who had previously made “improper advances” to Georgianna. Franklin Evans had gray hair, wore a long gray beard, and had dark, piercing eyes, giving him a perpetually sinister expression. He had traveled extensively through New England and eastern Canada, sometimes as an Adventist preacher, sometimes as a self-styled “botanic physician.” He had married three times and had a son in Derry, New Hampshire, and a daughter in Lawrence, Massachusetts. Since the previous June he had been living with his sister and her husband, Sylvester Day. Their granddaughter Georgianna was also staying with them while her widowed mother was away.

Evans set snares in the woods to catch partridges and had shown them to Georgianna. On the day of her disappearance, Evans had asked Georgianna to check his traps as he had to go to work. Georgianna went into the woods to check the traps and never came out. Evans did not go to work and was seen entering the woods that morning.

When Georgianna had not returned by 10:00 the family began searching for her. On the ground in the woods they found her apron and a broken comb recognized as hers. News of the disappearance traveled fast and by the end of the day more than a hundred people were in the woods searching for Georgianna Lovering.

Franklin Evans was immediately suspected of abducting his grandniece and two days later a warrant was issued for his arrest. At first Evans denied any connection to the disappearance, but after prolonged questioning by Sheriff Henry A. Drew, he said she was alive and he would tell where she was if the sheriff promised that he would not be harmed. Evans said he had agreed to help a man named Aaron Webster, of Kingston, kidnap Georgianna. The following day Sheriff Drew took Evans to Kingston to look for Webster, but they found no trace of them. Evans said that maybe Webster had been from Kensington, so they traveled there. When the Kensington search also failed to pan out, Evans said maybe it was Candia, but Sheriff Drew had lost all confidence in Evans and took him back to his own home in Stafford, New Hampshire.

Drew was determined to get to the truth, and late that night, in private conversation with his prisoner he said, “In the hearing of no persons but us two and the Great Being above, I ask you this question: Is the body of the girl cold in death?”

After hesitating for several seconds, Evans turned pale and said, “It is, Mr. Drew. I have done wrong.”

Believing his deal with the sheriff would protect him from prosecution, Evans agreed to take Drew to the body, and although it was nearly midnight, they left for the woods. Evans led Drew through the woods, then through a swamp, till they came to a fallen tree and Evans

showed him the body, hidden under a pile of leaves. By the light of his lantern Sheriff Drew was shocked to see the mutilated body of Georgianna Lovering. The body was later examined by a doctor who found finger marks on her neck where she was strangled. But the most horrible discovery was that the killer had cut away her sexual organs as well as portion of her bladder.

Trial:

The town of Exeter, New Hampshire where the trial was held, was inundated with spectators. Hotels were filled to capacity and many more people tried to get into the courtroom than the building could hold. But if they were expecting a long dramatic trial they were sadly disappointed, the session lasted only two days.

The family testified to the circumstances of Georgianna's disappearance, several witnesses testified to seeing Evans enter the woods that morning, the sheriff told of Evans leading him to the body, and the examining doctor told of the body's condition. The only defense possible was insanity, and Evans's attorneys provided little beyond the crime itself to indicate that Evans was insane. His jailers testified that Evans was subject to fits of insanity, including attempted suicide, but it did not help his cause. The jury returned a verdict of guilty after only forty-five minutes of deliberation.

Verdict: Guilty of first degree murder

Aftermath:

Evans was sentenced to hang on the third Tuesday of February, 1874. In the year between his sentencing and his execution, Franklin Evans was visited by a number of lawmen and reporters attempting to connect Evans with other New England murders. He was known to have been in Derry at the time the Mills girl was kidnapped, and reportedly had been a suspect. Through his connection to the Adventists, it was determined that Evans had been in Boston when the Joyce murders took place. E. F. Pillsbury, attorney to Lawrence Doyle, convicted of the murder of Lula Libby, believed he had evidence that Evans was her killer.

The *Boston Daily Evening Traveler* sent out a "commissioner" to get to the bottom of all of these allegations, and reported what he learned. Sheriff Drew had pressed Evans on his whereabouts during the years prior to the murder. Evans said he had spent much time in Derry, New Hampshire, and when questioned about the Mills kidnapping, Evans admitted that he had taken the child, but her body would never be found. Everyone interviewed in Derry believed that Evans's confession was correct. He had the reputation of a man of low character, and he was quite familiar with the Mills house. It was also alleged that two years later he sold the skeleton of a child to a physician in Lawrence, Massachusetts.

Drew traced Evans movements to Rhode Island, then to Roxbury, Massachusetts, which brought to mind the unsolved murders Joyce murders. Evans admitted to being in Roxbury and seemed to know more about the case than Drew did. Evans, who had some knowledge of herbal medicine made a meager income by collecting herbs for pharmacists, and was constantly walking in the woods around Boston. Drew continued to press Evans for

information and Evans nearly confessed:

- E. "Mr. Drew, I was right there when that boy and girl were killed."
- D. "Was he stabbed or not?"
- E. "Yes he was several times."
- D. "Did the girl make much ado?"
- E. "Yes."
- D. "More than the boy did?"
- E. "Yes."
- D. "Why did she?"
- E. "She was raped. Don't ask me any more I have now told you."
- D. "Was the act committed before she was killed?"
- E. "Yes. Mr. Drew, I won't say any more. I have told all about it now."

The Libby murder was harder to pin on Evans. At one point Evans asked Drew if there had been anyone from Maine after him. Drew asked what part of Maine and Evans said somewhere near Augusta. He said he knew of a little girl there in 1861 or 62 whose throat had been cut. When he was told that no one from Maine was after him Evans said, "I won't say another word about it then."

Beyond the hints he gave Drew he would not admit to murdering the Libby girl. But attorney E. F. Pillsbury was convinced that Evans did it; he claimed that Evans had preached in Augusta, and that the Libbys were Adventists who had entertained Evans in their house. This was verified by a "respectable lady" of Augusta who knew the Libbys. Pillsbury also said that there were also aspects of the crime not reported by the newspapers that implicated Evans.

Investigating the Joyce murders, the *Traveler* reporter talked to a young lady in Boston who was visiting friends in Roxbury in June 1865. She was surprised in the woods by the appearance of a wild haggard-looking man of "horrible aspect." The man asked if there was any evergreen in the woods and she "screamed at the very top of her voice." The reporter showed her a very life-like picture of Evans, among other pictures, and though it was over seven years prior, "she immediately, unhesitatingly identified it as the portrait of the man who had so frightened her."

Franklin B. Evans was hanged at the New Hampshire State Prison in Concord on February 17, 1874. After the execution Evans's official written confession was released to the press. In it he admitted to the murder of Georgianna Lovering, but attempted to mitigate the crime somewhat by describing the members of that household (with the exception of his sister, Deborah) as intemperate and immoral. His sister's husband Sylvester Day was often drunk and abusive, their daughter, Mrs. Lovering was a woman of loose morals, and even 13-year-old Georgianna was sometimes drunk and lewd, talking of her "shameful intercourse" with three young men. Evans's claimed that he, himself, had consensual sex with Georgianna, and she threatened to expose him. She caught him trying to alter a one dollar bill to look like a ten dollar bill and threatened to expose this crime as well. He found himself completely in Georgianna's power and decided that he must kill her. He strangled her in the woods and carried her to the swamp. Evans explained why he cut away the organs: "I did this to gain

some knowledge of the human system that might be of use to me as a doctor.”

Evans also confessed to murdering the Mills child. He heard moaning from inside the house, climbed in the window and found her sitting on the floor, apparently very sick. He concluded that she would probably not live until morning and he wanted a body to examine for “surgical purposes” so he took her to the woods and strangled her. He stopped his examination when he found she had a deformed hip and spine, and buried the body in the woods under a chestnut stump, in a spot he was never again able to find.

These were the only two murders Evan’s confessed to. He admitted to theft, counterfeiting and attempted insurance fraud, but said he was entirely innocent of the murders he was accused of in Boston, Maine, and elsewhere.

The confession was dictated to the warden and chaplain of the prison. They wrote it down and read it back to him and he accepted it as correct and signed it. They explained that much of what Evans said was “too gross and indelicate to be written or read” and had to be rephrased.



Franklin Evans on the Dissecting Table, Dartmouth College.

Whether he committed only the two confessed murders or was the killer of five or more, as many believed, Franklin Evans was, as he was often described, a monster. In death the wandering Northwood Murderer finally found a home; in accordance with his last request Evans’s body was sold to Dartmouth College for dissection, the proceeds of the sale going to his son. Franklin Evans’s skeleton resided for years in the college’s anatomical museum.

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CRIImages: Franklin B. Evans

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Posted on January 5, 2012 by nzumel

I came across an interesting story while reading a 1991 paper called “Be Bold but not Too Bold’: Female Courage in Some British and Scandinavian Legends”, by Jacqueline Simpson. The story is a variant of a Norwegian legend that Dr. Simpson calls “The Interrupted Fairy Wedding”.



Seter

Photo: Wikipedia

In this legend, a young woman is alone in the mountain pastures tending to cattle when she meets a *hulder*, or mountain fairy. The *hulder* tries to marry the young woman by force. The wedding is generally interrupted by a villager (her father, or her sweetheart) who arrives in time to shoot steel over the bride's head. The wedding entourage vanishes.

The variant of this legend that I'm especially interested in was collected in 1948:

[The story was] told as having happened to a certain Anne Rykhus who is described with such particularity that it is obvious that she was a real person; from internal details, it seems she must have lived at least fifty years previously.

Every evening, Anne would stay late in the pasture, because an attractive young man visited her there. Eventually, she agrees to marry him. Anne's dog, “knew quite well that it wasn't a real man” who visited her, and he runs back to the farm. This alerts the farmer (Anne's father?), who arrives in time to fire a gun over her head, and drive away the *hulder*.

Here's the interesting part:

Everything vanished as if it had sunk into the ground. Only Anne was left, and she just sat and stared straight ahead of her. ‘How are things with you?’ asked the man. ‘I want to go home to the village’ said she, and began to weep.

He took her home, but from that day she was never like other folk. She used to say that when the farmer fired that shot up there at the dairy, the man she had been about to marry shouted at her, ‘You'll see much, but understand little.’ And so it was. She could see all sorts of beings which were invisible to others. Sometime she would see the path so full of them that she would take a stick and drive them away. She could also see things which would come true later. She once declared she could see wagons on wheels going up the valley of their own

accord, and fifty years later the railway came through Fron, just outside the house where she had lived. What's more, she declared she could see things like huge birds high in the sky, and some years later aircraft passed over the village. After some years had gone by, Anne Rykhus was no longer considered to be odd, but wise.

This variant is significantly different from the others that Dr. Simpson gives in her paper. Doesn't it remind you of the story my mother told me, about the *ibanan* maid? (And my uncle dropped by, to add a few more details about this maid in the comments.)

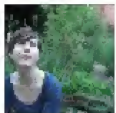
The Norwegian story has no invisible boyfriend, but it does feature "The Hidden People" — that is, invisible beings. And the story seems to be about a historical person: a woman, Anne Rykhus, who begins to manifest behaviors that could be schizophrenia.

The symptoms of schizophrenia generally appear between the ages of 16 and 30; but as my mother said about her grandmother's maid, "they didn't know about those things back then." So perhaps the villagers blamed it on the *hulder*. They even had an existing legend — the interrupted wedding — to hang the explanation on. Did Anne really foresee the railway and aircraft? Well, hindsight is always super-psychic, and stories do have a way of getting embellished. But now this village has its own legend, a real, honest-to-goodness seer. And rather than being shunned, as must happen to so many like her, Anne Rykhus is honored.

Who knows if what I've speculated has any basis in reality. But it makes a good story, and sometimes, that's what counts.

This entry was posted in Folktale, Musings and tagged folklore, folktale, hulder, Jacqueline Simpson, JSTOR, Norwegian legend, schizophrenia. Bookmark the permalink.

2 thoughts on "Not Odd, but Wise"



1. schietree says:
on January 6, 2012 at 11:50 am

This is very like the legends of the fairy people that are to be found in Scottish tales, right down to the use of metal to scare them off – they also don't like running streams, so the protagonist of the story can escape the (generally benevolent seeming) fairy-folk by crossing a fast running burn (stream).

I'd never thought of the mental illness factor – the isles have a long history of people who claim to be 'second sighted', to see ghosts and the future, and the descriptions of the way they are seem less like schizophrenia and more like that phenomenon, which apparently happens, of people who are otherwise quite sane who nevertheless have hallucinations. I wonder if the seeing of 'things' can be culturally sanctioned, in the way that some mental illnesses are specific to particular cultures or locations?

• nzumel says:
on January 6, 2012 at 1:27 pm



It is interesting to see motifs that carry from country to country and region to region...

Re. the “seeing of things” being culturally sanctioned — I suppose that Catholic mystics fall in that category. The reward for seeing and hearing “things” is often sainthood: Joan of Arc, St. Teresa of Avila. Hildegard of Bingen had visions, too, I believe. And others I can’t think of off the top of my head.

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Obama Reveals His Favorite Anti-Obama Conspiracy Theory

talkingpointsmemo.com



AP Photo / AP

Published November 19, 2015, 10:18 AM EST

There is no shortage of conspiracy theories surrounding Barack Obama's presidency: some people believe he was born in Kenya, some believe he's secretly a practicing Muslim and others see his gun control efforts as a prelude to mandatory gun confiscation.

And those are just a few examples. But Obama really gets a kick out of one fever swamp dream in particular: the notion that he planned to use the "Jade Helm 15" military training exercise as a cover to implement martial law and stay in office for a third term.

Obama didn't mention the U.S. Army exercise by name in an interview with former ESPNer Bill Simmons published in GQ this week. But when Simmons asked the President what he thought was the most entertaining conspiracy theory about himself, it was clear that Obama was having a laugh at the internet rumors surrounding "Jade Helm 15" that riled some southern states, particularly Texas, earlier this year.

"That military exercises we were doing in Texas were designed to begin martial law so that I could usurp the Constitution and stay in power longer," he told Simmons. "Anybody who thinks I could get away with telling Michelle I'm going to be president any longer than eight years does not know my wife."

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Thor's hammer in Norway

A symbol of reaction against the Christian cross?

Sæbjørg Walaker Nordeide

In my main project, I will try to trace the chronology of the conversion to Christianity of people in southern Norway on the basis of different types of archaeological material. The Thor's hammer is an interesting type of object in this context, because it has normally been interpreted as a reaction against the Christian cross (e.g. Grieg 1929; Skjølsvold 1951; Staecker 1999; Wamers 1999; Gräslund 2002). Hence, occurrences of Thor's hammers are likely to say something about where and when Christianity was established to an extent that it could provoke this type of reaction, but at the same time show that the non-Christian religion was still alive.

However, there has been some disagreement as to whether or not the Thor's hammer was a reaction against the cross. Sigurd Grieg, for instance, discovered that finds of Thor's hammer were older than those of Christian crosses, which led him to the conclusion that the hammer is not a symbol of the conversion phase (Grieg 1929). However, recent studies of Swedish and Danish material by, for instance, Jörn Staecker (1999) and Anne-Sofie Gräslund (2002) have concluded that there are two different traditions in the use of the Thor's hammer: an older one with *several hammers*

Object	Location	Context	Burial custom	Date
Thor's hammer, silver, decorated	Verdal, Nord-Trøndelag	Stray find		
Ring with 9 kon. Thor's hammers, undecorated	Hilde, Inn-Ø, near Stryn	Female burial	Grave, cremation, in a mound with a boat	10th century
Thor's hammer, iron, undecorated	Kaupang, Tjolling	Urban site		c. 800-960
Thor's hammer, iron, undecorated	Kaupang, Tjolling	Female burial	Grave, inhumation, oriented NNE-SSW, in a mound with a boat	c. 850-900
Thor's hammer inscribed on two Arabic coins	Kaupang, Tjolling	Urban site		Post 844-869 Post 951-955
Thor's hammer on a silver arm-ring, undecorated	Gjovik, Balkestad	Hoard		Viking Period
Thor's hammer, silver, decorated, filigree	Trøen, Relling	Hoard (746 g)		Post-991, coin dated
Mould for Thor's hammer, bronze, undecorated	Myren, Eidsberg	(Male?) burial	Grave, cremation, in a mound	Viking Period
Thor's hammer, silver, decorated with circles	Sande Vål, Fkju	Male burial	Flat grave, inhumation, oriented N-S, with a boat	Viking Period
Ring with Thor's hammer, silver, with two undecorated hammers	Veh, Sand, Ryfylke	Hoard		First half of 10th century, coin dated
Thor's hammer, silver, undecorated	Bellveit, Gidsdal	Hoard?		Post 978-1016, coin dated

Figure 2. Finds of Thor's hammers in Norway. Sex is only interpreted on the basis of objects, not anatomical analysis. The age is that suggested by the context of the find, or the period when an accompanying coin was struck.

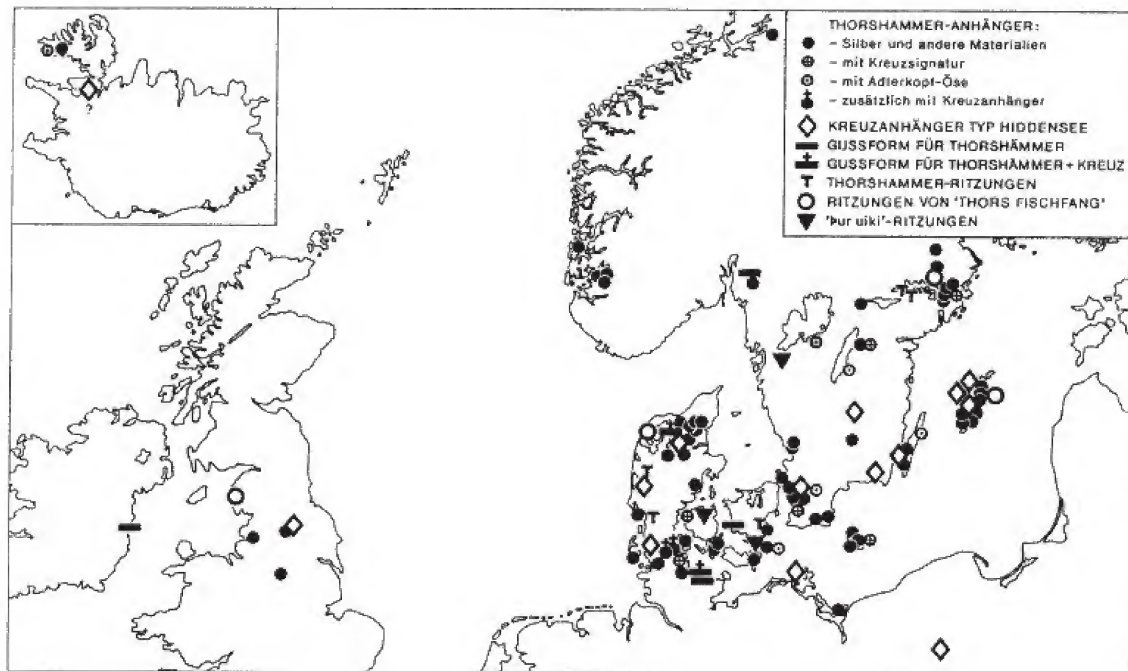


Figure 1. General distribution of Thor's hammers (Wamers 1999).



Figure 3. Thor's hammer; possibly found in Verdal, Nord-Trøndelag. © Fotoarkivet, Bergen Museum.

attached to a ring and a younger one with a single hammer used as a pendant. These two traditions may have developed more or less independently, and the later one, the pendant, provides the best comparison with the use of the Christian cross as a pendant. In any particular district, the Christian cross is always more recent than the Thor's hammer pendant. The hammer pendant is thought to indicate that Christianity was just becoming established, whereas the cross pendant indicates that it has reached a consolidation phase (Staecker 1999:236ff).

According to Egon Wamers (1999), Thor's hammer pendants and moulds for Thor's hammers have mostly been found in southern Sweden, Denmark and the part of Germany closest to Denmark; a few in Norway and near the south and east coasts of the Baltic, and very few in the British Isles, Poland, Iceland and Russia (figure 1). Only 10% have been found in graves. In addition, many Thor's hammer rings, mostly of iron, have been found in graves from the eighth to tenth centuries in Åland, Swedish-speaking parts of Russia, and especially the Mälaren district of Sweden, where 450 rings have been found, including 58 in the Birka graves (Wamers 1999; Gräslund 2002:57). Almost all the graves containing Thor's hammer rings are cremations. In this paper, I will concentrate on the Thor's hammers found in Norway.

The finds of Thor's hammers in Norway

Only 12 finds considered to be Thor's hammers are known from Norway, including two inscriptions and a mould (figure 2). The information about age and context of the hammers is of varying quality because most of them were found 50–100 years ago or more, often accidentally, and not in modern, professional excavations. For instance, the first find shown in figure 2 was handed in to Bergen Museum by a teacher; his grandfather, a minister, had given it to him, and he had taken it with him from Verdal in Nord-Trøndelag. However, we know nothing about the circumstances of the find and cannot even rely on it having come from the Verdal district. The hammer is decorated with circles. Jörn Staecker (1999), who has dated the various types of Thor's hammers, attributed this one to between the late ninth century and the eleventh century (figure 3).¹



Figure 4. Object from Inten, Rollag, Buskerud, interpreted as a Thor's hammer; but it may equally well be a cross. © University Museum of Cultural Heritage, Åse Kari Hammer.

We know more about the find from Hilde, near Stryn in Sogn & Fjordane. A farmer began removing gravel from a NE–SW oriented, boat-shaped mound. Finds were made the same year and were donated to Bergen Museum. The following year, archaeologists excavated the rest of the mound and found, among other things, a sepulchral urn with burnt bones and an iron ring with nine plain Thor's hammers of iron. This burial was a richly furnished female grave. Besides her dress and jewels, the dead woman was accompanied by a boat, and various tools and equipment of silver, bronze, glass, stone and iron (Shetelig 1912:183). Jan Petersen dated the grave to the tenth century, based on the typology of various objects (Petersen 1951). The type of hammer found has been dated to the tenth century.² This type of iron ring with hammers in combination with a sepulchral urn in a cremation burial has its closest parallels in the Mälaren district of Sweden and further east, as mentioned above.³ With a diameter of around 2.5 cm, the size of the ring is similar too (Gräslund 2002:55ff).

The two hammer pendants from Kaupang in Vestfold are of the same, plain, undecorated type of iron. One was found in 1902 in a secondary burial in a mound containing two burials, first a man in a boat and later, above that, a woman in another boat, both oriented NNE–SSW.⁴ The woman had the Thor's hammer and a firesteel beside her elbow, but they had probably originally been attached to her belt. She was wearing a dress with buckles and pearls, and also had a casket. Even though the deceased was not cremated, charcoal and 629 burnt animal bones were found. Her grave was covered with stones. On the basis of the typology of various objects, it was dated to AD 850–900 (Blindheim et al. 1981:181). This type of hammer is dated to the ninth or tenth centuries.⁵ The other hammer was found in the settlement area during the excavation in 2001 (The Kaupang Excavations Project, Annual Report 2001).

Two inscriptions of a Thor's hammer on Arabic dirhams have also been found in the settlement area at Kaupang; one was struck in 844–869 and the other as late as 951–955. They

are older than the inscriptions, but how long it took the coins to reach Kaupang is difficult to estimate. Where and when the inscriptions were made is open to conjecture, but considering the other finds of Thor's hammers at Kaupang it is not unlikely they were made there.⁶

The Thor's hammer found at Gjulem in Østfold is made of silver, and is attached to an arm ring of silver. The hammer is undecorated, and was found in a hoard with other silver objects in 1906. The find is dated to the Viking Period, and this type of hammer is dated from the late tenth century to the eleventh century.⁷

The find from Tråen, Buskerud, also belongs to a hoard found in 1906 on a path on a slope beside the River Numedalslågen. It had probably been wrapped in cloth. The object interpreted as a Thor's hammer was decorated with double spirals in filigree technique (figure 4). The hoard also contained coins and silver objects weighing a total of 746.8 g. However, the interpretation of the find as a hammer is very doubtful. Sraecker argued that it is a cross pendant, because there is "keine Thorshämmer aus Skandinavien bekannt, wo der untere Längbalken über den Querbalken ragt" (Sraecker 1999:98). However, since this is also the case, for instance, with a Thor's hammer from Läby in Uppland (see Gräslund 2002:57), the interpretation is doubtful. Coins from the hoard date the find to post-991 (Skaare 1976).

The remains of a disturbed grave mound were excavated at Mysen, Østfold, in 1950. This was a cremation, and a soapstone vessel which was probably a sepulchral urn. There was also equipment for a smithy, for instance a mould for seven ingots, and a Thor's hammer. A crucible containing remains of bronze indicates that the mould was intended for manufacturing bronze objects. The hammer was a plain type, dated from the eighth to tenth centuries.⁸

The hammer from Fitjar, Hordaland, was also found in a grave, a flat grave seriously damaged by ploughing in the 1930s. The archaeologist could only excavate the remains, but was able to reconstruct the burial as an inhumation in a N-S oriented grave with the head to the north. The hammer was decorated with stamped circles. This type is dated from the late ninth century to the eleventh century.⁹ The deceased was also equipped with weapons, a boat, a casket and a balance, which shows that he probably held an important position in the local community.

There are two finds from the Suldal area in Rogaland. At Vela, a ring with two plain silver Thor's hammers was found with other silver objects under a hollow stone on uncultivated land not far from the sea, and with no traces of structures around the objects. The hoard included coins struck at the beginning of the tenth century. This type of hammer is also dated to the tenth century.¹⁰ The other find is from Bråtveit, and is a plain silver hammer which also belonged to a silver hoard. The hoard included coins struck in 978–1016 (Skaare 1976). This type of hammer is dated from the late ninth century to the eleventh century.¹¹

General pattern of the finds

Even though most of the find circumstances are, at best, poorly documented, a general pattern is noticeable. Firstly, there is a *striking geographical asymmetry* in Norway. The

place of origin for the find supposedly originating in Verdal is very doubtful, and this location cannot be relied upon. Apart from this and the Innvik find, all the Thor's hammers in Norway have been found south of a line linking Bergen to Oslo. When the area east of Norway is compared, this pattern is even more evident, as we can see from Wamers' map (figure 1). This means that the Thor's hammer is a symbol we can expect only in the furthest south of Norway, both in the west and east, and on the coast as well as inland.

Secondly, Thor's hammers are mostly found in burials and hoards, with an equal number in both contexts. The dates of the Norwegian hammers do not give any basis for claiming that the Thor's hammer rings are older than the pendants. Nor are there any grounds for claiming that the hammers from the hoards tend to be older than the rest of the find, as Sraecker (1999:236) found in his, admittedly, considerably larger sample, mostly from Sweden and Denmark.

Thirdly, equal numbers of Thor's hammers in graves are found in association with cremations and inhumation burials. The early-Christian burial custom was generally inhumation, whereas both cremations and inhumations figure in the non-Christian, Norwegian burial custom. Even though their numbers vary from one region to another, it might be expected that if the Thor's hammer was used as a reaction against Christianity, it would have been mostly linked with cremation to make the contrast to Christianity clearer, but this is not the case.

Despite the few finds in Norway, they are likely to be representative of the burials and the towns. Firstly, Iron Age archaeology in Norway has traditionally focused on burials, which are also the most evident monuments from this period. Yet no more hammers have been found. Secondly, extensive excavations of urban occupation layers from the ninth and early tenth centuries have taken place at Kaupang, giving two finds of Thor's hammers, and in towns established in the late tenth and early eleventh centuries, like Tønsberg, Trondheim and Oslo, where no finds of Thor's hammers have been made. In Sweden and Denmark, the majority of finds are in hoards, only a quarter being in burials. The silver hammers mostly come from tenth- and eleventh-century silver hoards (Gräslund 2002:56). Hence, hoards may be underrepresented in Norway as regards finds of Thor's hammers, if the hammers were used in the same way everywhere.

Thor's hammer meets the Christian cross

The 11 or 12 finds (12 if the find from Tråen is interpreted as a hammer) do not present a solid foundation for studying the arrival of Christianity by reactions against it. Despite their asymmetrical geographical distribution, the number and distribution of Thor's hammers is representative, with the possible exception of the tenth and eleventh century silver hoards. Hence, I would claim that the *Thor's hammer has not been extensively used in Norway and cannot represent a substantial reaction against Christianity*. This does not mean that the finds we have do not represent part of a reaction against the new religion, but any such reaction is manifested in other parts of the material culture more than in the use of a Thor's hammer.

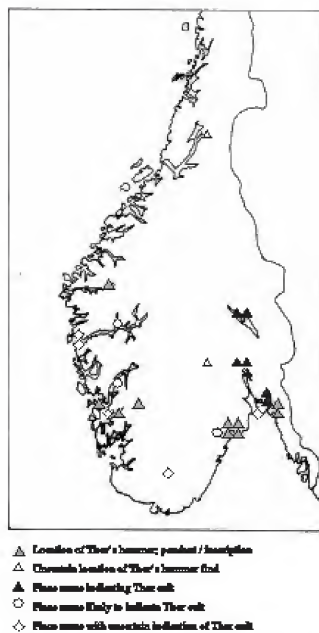


Figure 5. The distribution of Thor's hammer finds and place-names associated with cult of Thor in Norway.

This is almost the opposite of some of Stæcker's conclusions from his thorough studies (Stæcker 1999). He claims that the hammer pendants are a reaction against the Christian cross (as a pendant). In his view, the non-Christians were forced to invent the hammer as a symbol of their own religion, and he sees this invention as a sign of crisis in their local religion because it shows that it was difficult for them to find adequate means to combat the powerful Christianity.

I cannot disagree with Stæcker's thorough observations, but I disagree with some of his interpretations of them. If the Thor's hammer really was a personal symbol, the small number of finds does not fit the interpretation of crisis. This is a great overstatement based on a few finds, at least in the case of Norway. As grave goods are usually interpreted as personal, the number of Thor's hammers would be expected to be higher. I also disagree in the basic idea that the invention of such a symbol should be interpreted as a sign of crisis. Religious symbols are often seen to flourish in societies with a strong and flourishing religious consciousness and religious leadership, as in modern Afghanistan and Iran.

Place names

It is interesting that the finds, however few and scattered, are concentrated in the late ninth century and the beginning of the eleventh century, the supposed period of the main attempt to establish Christianity in Norway. Moreover, it is striking that not a single Thor's hammer has been found in the Norwegian towns established around the year 1000. This indicates that the hammer as a symbol was no longer in use when these towns were being established, or rather, this symbol was not favoured by the people in these towns. This may further indicate that the towns are linked to a special social group of people who were Christians. However, the most interesting observation is the almost complete lack of

Thor's hammers on the European continent roughly north of a line from Bergen to Stockholm, the find from Innvik, Sogn & Fjordane, being the only definite exception. How can this be explained?

Wamers (1999) pointed out that finds of Thor's hammers are linked to (1) the former Danish area, (2) areas under Danish influence, and (3) the area where Christianity was introduced first (figure). This distribution is the same whether or not he included moulds, pictures and runic inscriptions. According to Wamers, this proves that the myths about Thor were flourishing in this area when Christianity was established.

I agree with Wamers' main theories. However, he does not discuss the intriguing implications for the area outside what I will call the "Thor's hammer area". Does his theory imply that people did not know Thor outside that area? Or that Christian missionarying took place later outside that area? According to Steinsland and Sørensen (1994), the god Thor was very popular in the whole of Scandinavia in the Viking Period. However, Christian graves in Møre & Romsdal are earlier than the latest date of Thor's hammers further south in Norway, and Christian graves seem to occur as far north as Trøndelag equally early as further south (see Farbrege 1986; Solli 1996). Non-Christian graves seem to be as recent in the "Thor's hammer area" as outside it. This pattern does not quite fit with Wamers' theories.

To further investigate this, I will compare these data with Norwegian place-names linked with the god Thor to see if there are other indications of the Thor cult outside the "Thor's hammer area". According to Håkan Rydving (1990), place-names linked with the god Thor are mostly in the genitive form, and the cultic names are the most interesting. I found 95 names listed by Oluf Rygh with combinations of *Tors* (Tor is the modern Norwegian form of Thor), but many of these places have obviously not been given their name because of any relationship with a Thor cult. According to Rygh, only seven can be interpreted as places where the Thor cult was practised, all in combination with *hov* – Torshov. Rygh considered these to be definite Thor cult sites. As Rygh's register is old and mainly focused on farm names, he may have missed some places. However, when I searched the modern electronic register of place-names (The National Place-Name Register at the Norwegian Mapping Authority), I found only one more, Torshov in Østfold.

In addition to his seven definite cult-based place-names, Rygh noted several more that he considered were probably associated with the Thor cult: Torsøyer in Vestfold, Torsnes in Sogn & Fjordane and Torsnes in Hordaland. Some places were more uncertain, because they may also derive from the man's name Tor: Torsvik in Hordaland, Torsnes in Rogaland, Torsnes in Østfold, Torsæter in Sogn & Fjordane, and Torsland in Vest-Agder. All these names, with both certain and uncertain associations to the Thor cult, are concentrated in southern Norway, no further north than Sogn & Fjordane.

If all these place-names are added to a map showing the distribution of Thor's hammer finds, central and northern Norway are still not represented (figure 1).

According to some sagas, there should be a Thor cult in central region of Norway too, especially in Trøndelag. However, the sagas are in fact the only sources of information

about a Thor cult as far north as Trøndelag, and Steinsland and Sørensen's (1994) assumptions are mostly based on these sources. How reliable are the sagas in these matters?

Magnus Olsen (1978:270ff) found that cultic ceremonies for Freyr were held at Mære in Nord-Trøndelag, and that there were several cultic sites for Njord, Freyr and Freyja north of Dovre, but he found only a few uncertain instances in the toponymic material of Thor being worshipped north of Dovre. The same seems to be the case with for instance the worship of the older god Ullr/Ullin, whose name we find in place-names in the south of Norway (Olsen 1915:66ff). The sagas are inconsistent concerning Thor's role in Trøndelag. Else Mundal (1990) noted that Snorri Sturluson did not mention a Thor cult in Trøndelag in *Heimskringla*, *Hákonar saga*, describing a sacrifice to heathen gods in Trøndelag, even though Oddr munkr in *Saga Ólafs Tryggvasonar* did mention Thor being worshipped in the pagan temple at Mære. Unlike Oddr, Snorri visited Trøndelag and probably knew the area first hand. Hence, Snorri may well have had a good reason for not mentioning Thor. Even if it is older, Oddr's saga may not be right in these aspects. According to Mundal (1990:298), Oddr's description is based on a general conception of Thor as a very important god.

Conclusions

Although I should be careful in drawing conclusions on the basis of missing evidence, archaeological sources and place-names define quite a small area where a Thor cult was practised in Norway, and this fits the bigger picture of an area crossing southern Scandinavia and the nearest areas to the east and west. Some sagas paint a different picture, but we have seen that this may be explained.

Studies based on the sagas have normally presented a relatively homogeneous picture of the religion in southern Norway in Viking times. Attempts have been made to understand the religion as a whole, including a pantheon of gods. This picture is supported by terminology such as "Christians" on the one hand and "pagans" on the other, which has further stigmatised the groups of people living here and their beliefs before the arrival of Christianity. But belief is only part of a culture, although it is not always more or less separable from daily life. "Christians" is probably an appropriate name for some groups in Viking Age Norway, even if "Christianity" was heterogeneous then, as now. But "pagans" is not appropriate for the rest of the people, neither Norwegians nor Saami (e.g. Kilbride 2000; Saler 2000).

To search for the regional reaction against Christianity, it is necessary to focus more on regional differences. During the Viking Period, there were probably major differences in culture and belief in the area we today call Norway, and these are partly indicated by the remarkable differences in burial traditions. Norwegian topography, means of communication and the number of people living here in the Viking Age make it difficult to believe that it could be otherwise. I believe one of these differences was that the god Thor was not worshipped north of Sogn & Fjordane in Norway, or such worship was practised so differently that we are now unable to recognise it. Consequently, the Thor's hammer cannot mirror the reception of Christianity all over the country. Moreover, the few

Thor's hammers found show that they cannot represent a significant protest in the area where they occur. The Christian religion was probably met with different challenges around the country, depending on local beliefs.

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Notes

- 1 Staecker's Type 2.1.1.
- 2 Staecker's Type 3.
- 3 We do not, however, know whether this was placed on top, inside the urn, near its neck, like many of the Swedish parallels.
- 4 Because various finds in the museum have become confused over the years, the find circumstances are not quite sure.
- 5 Staecker's Type 1.1.
- 6 This information has been kindly given by Svein Gullbekk and Christoph Kilger, University of Oslo.
- 7 Staecker's Type 1.5.
- 8 Staecker's Type 1.3.
- 9 Staecker's Type 2.1.1.
- 10 Staecker's Type 3.
- 11 Staecker's Type 1.5.

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Paranormal expert's bid to rid Grimsby home of evil spirits - video

November 19th 2015

grimsbytelegraph.co.uk

By Grimsby Telegraph | Posted: November 18, 2015



- Psychic hypnotist, Steve Kneeshaw, who came to assist the Loche family, who have been troubled by paranormal activity in...

- Psychic hypnotist, Steve Kneeshaw, who came to assist the Loche family, who have been troubled by paranormal activity in...

- The Loche family, Yasmin Loche, 16, and mum Sarah Loche, who have been troubled by paranormal activity in their home,...



Comments (11)

A paranormal expert has been drafted in to exorcise the spirit of a "teenage girl" from a family home in Grimsby.

As reported, Sara and Richard Loche and their daughter Yasmin have been tormented by the apparitions at their home in Eleanor Street, for more than a year.

They believe the main "spirit" is a woman who died in the house a few years ago.

Among the paranormal activity in the Loche home, they have had clocks going backwards, DVDs moving around on shelves and the vision of boys playing marbles in



one of the rooms.

In a bid to rid the ghostly spirit from their home, Hull-based psychic hypnotist Steve Kneeshaw paid the family a visit earlier this afternoon (Wednesday November 18) to perform a hypno-exorcism on Sara's daughter, Yasmin, who believes to have been tormented by a spirit for a number of years.

Steve, along with his assistant Kevin Rippard, toured the house in a bid to locate the negative energy, and Steve said that he was drawn to the home's loft.

He said: "I'm very curious to see what's in that attic, I think there's something in there that wants to be out.

"I was instantly drawn to the attic and I'm getting signals of a teenage girl who feels like she's imprisoned here.

"She's not happy and doesn't want to be here."

Once Steve thought he had identified the spirit, he proceeded to perform the hypno-exorcism on Yasmin, 16, in her bedroom, which is apparently a hot-spot for paranormal activity.

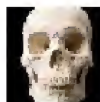
This saw Steve induce Yasmin into a state of relaxation, before he urged the spirit to communicate to him through Yasmin. either by speaking or providing a visual signal.

Although Steve said that he received strong signals from the exercise, a clear message from any paranormal presence was not recorded.

He said: "We tried to channel whatever is in this house towards us and to ask it to speak out through a person.

"If it wanted to be put to rest then it would have let us know in some way."

11 comments



• mrnoone | November 19 2015, 10:30AM

i bet she cannot wait to get out the door and run to maccys



• Seano123 | November 18 2015, 10:43PM

And who entered the body



• Seano123 | November 18 2015, 10:42PM

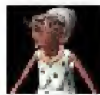
What was in the loft then lol



• tone1428 | November 18 2015, 8:17PM

Cleeresident0 you mean that fly that flew past the camera? ...And it is not an

exorcism...that can only be done by a priest (If you believe in that rubbish) ...otherwise a rubbish story!



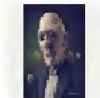
• aunt_messy | November 18 2015, 8:00PM

Getting rid of bottled spirits would be a good idea.



• Cleeresident0 | November 18 2015, 7:44PM

Maybe so gobblydegoop. Watch the last few secs of the vid towards the left of screen, a white flicker ;-)



• Grump-fart | November 18 2015, 7:36PM

I feel traumatised after seeing those pictures.



• ScrumpyJoe | November 18 2015, 6:46PM

He's as mad as they are.



• Bizarre57 | November 18 2015, 6:29PM

What IS the Tellywag's obsession with this for goodness sake??? Are there not far more serious issues which need thorough investigation. It's just a bliddy comic these days.



• watch_me_2 | November 18 2015, 6:25PM

You having a laugh lol

When broken toys are your brothers

The large familia Martínez del Águila was another large more, humble, working and Murcia family. So far would go unnoticed if it were not that in late 1965 he started talking about it in the newspapers. And the strange deaths of four young children.



Once relocated a shanty town, living in the basement of a building of Lane Street in Murcia city. The father, Andrés Martínez del Águila, worked as a construction worker, helps his eldest son, José Antonio 16 years. The second son, Manuel, 14, works plater. The third, Piedad, with 12 years, caring for younger siblings, does the housework and at leisure polishes motorcycle parts at home. 10 Jesus, Manolita 8 and 6 Cristina also help polishing, and the last four, the little ones and helpless: Andresito, Fuensanta, Mariano and Mari Carmen, did nothing. The mother, Antonia Pérez Díaz, who was seven months pregnant, was dedicated to the kitchen.

On December 4, 1965, died mysteriously smallest, María del Carmen Martínez family, nine months old. Warned the doctor "Insurance" as it was called before Social Security, introduced in the House and death from meningitis diagnosed. So far so normal, what large family of humble not lost a child to meningitis. Besides, it was not the first child family death five years ago a baby died two meses. Pero five days later, on December 9, 1965, died on now is the younger brother, Mariano Martinez, two years . Blame meningitis Also check. When five days later dies the next child in order from lowest to highest, Fuensanta Martinez of four years. This is when people start to suspect something. The three consecutive kills five in five days and ascending age younger, seem casual. The neighbors are concerned, perhaps the family has a contagious disease five days of incubation, or a strange virus springing brother died in dead brother. The case is starting to spare, and the authorities have to intervene.

The Medical Insurance and doubt that the third dead child had meningitis, and begins to doubt that was the cause of death of the first two. What remains of family Martínez del Águila, which remains large, is entered in a room the Provincial Hospital of Murcia. First you think of a strange disease that only affects the family, or a food intolerance (not going misguided with this hypothesis) and all family members is tested. Nothing is found and given the high for them to spend Christmas at home, on January 4, 1966, the fourth brother dies, who will be played by the child, Andrew, for five years.

The viscera of Andrew and Fuensanta sent to Madrid to analyze by the National Institutes of Health, there is the presence of any virus, so refer to the Institute of Toxicology and the remains of the Forensic Anatomical children. Now seeking a lethal toxic. Finally finds that the four children were poisoned. Now the question is by whom ?.

The first suspects are the parents. The January 14 pretrial detention was decreed. Due to the advanced pregnancy of Antonia, is kept retained in the maternity ward of the Provincial Hospital San Juan de Dios. The father, he was interned in the Psychiatric Center of El Palmar, to make an assessment of his mental state. The children were not arrested, but being minors could not stay home alone, so that left with parents, girls with mother and child with the father, but could freely go out. Not if it's my impression, but if you suspect that parents have killed four of his children ... Are you still leaving with them ?. Or was it a strategy to know what really happened in that house ?.



It seems that the police had suspected elder sister, Mercy, as she was caring for younger siblings and was with them at the time of death of the four. It was suspected that the four had died after ingesting a poison for domestic use, and four died after she gave them food. But when they started to suspect the child, she accused her mother, saying she was forcing kill his brothers. Parent involvement was unclear, but continued on remand. Antonia and Piedad became the main suspect.

On January 25 the arrest warrant de Piedad was decreed , that being a minor, was detained in the monastery wayward youth of the Oblates of Murcia, by order of the Juvenile Court Guardianship. The poison used turned out to be a mixture of potassium cyanide and chlorine, which caused a sudden death, in fact, either poisons, used separately, would have killed children immediately. Piedad was the one who administered in milk of small, who died in less than half an hour. Cyanide kills in just two minutes. (At the University of Murcia sacrificed 21 guinea pigs and a dog to determine the lethality of the mixture).

The conclusion, Piedad, burdened by having to be a housewife when she was still a child, which also loved to spend the day playing, poisoned small, defenseless and also the most annoying and most time obscured. He used the chlorine present in some pills he used to clean metal, dissolving in milk, and this cyanide in a rat poison, which were toxic only ones found in the house of Lane Street.

The presence of lethal poisons in household products, is normal, but a 12-year basic studies without knowing information, it is curious. It is said that one of the Inspectors of the FBI investigating the case, taught Piedad one of the tablets with potassium chloride, the girl recognized and acknowledged he used to clean the metal parts of the bikes. Joking, the Inspector "played" to take the tablet in a glass of milk that had the girl and her first laugh and then angry, stopped him, saying that pill could do much damage.

De Piedad little else is known, its track is lost in Downtown Las Oblates of Murcia, for wayward girls. Say there was devoted to knitting. Who knew her said it was sweet, cheerful and eager to be a girl and enjoy playing.

Parents were released. But this was not the first time this family ran in newspapers. In 1978, the eldest brother, José Antonio, was one of five escaped prisoners from the prison of Murcia. It was there for the murder and robbery of a taxi driver.

Forcing children to grow up too soon, sometimes not make people accountable, but children still breaking toys. In this case, other children.

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'Piss Christ' creates fury at Italian art show

The Local · 13 Nov 2015, 12:37

Published: 13 Nov 2015 12:37
GMT+01:00

The exhibition of a controversial photograph - displaying a plastic and wood crucifix submerged in a beaker of urine - is creating controversy in Italy.

'Piss Christ' – a 1987 work by American photographer Andres Serrano – is set to be displayed at

the Photolux Biennial of International Photography in Lucca, an exhibition financed by the regional government of Tuscany.

But the region's decision to finance a display of a photo widely regarded as blasphemous has upset members of Italy's right wing party, the Northern League, *Il Giornale* reported.

"It is unacceptable that the regional Democratic Party government funds work that so heavily offends Christianity," read a note from Northern League councillors Manuel Vescovi and Elisa Montemagni.

"It is a work that demeans Christ and pays tribute to Islam," the councillors continued.

Serrano has long been a controversial figure, mostly thanks to his widespread use of bodily fluids and cadavers in his photographs.

Since first being displayed in the US in 1987 'Piss Christ' has come under fire from a number of religious and conservative figures in the US, who have also taken issue with displays of the work receiving state funds.

During a 2011 exhibition in the southern French city of Avignon, two Catholic activists even attempted to destroy the piece by smashing the frame housing the controversial photo.

'Piss Christ' after being attacked by Christian activists in 2011. Photo: Boris Horvat/AFP

But the Photolux festival director, Enrico Stefanelli, sees things very differently and defended the festival's decision to display the work.

"The spirit of the festival is to find balance within a context of freedom," he said.



"The work is not an offence nor is it a criticism of Christ, it's all about the commercialization of images. And it's important that we view it in the historical context of the 1980s to which it belongs."

The exhibition will run from November 21st to December 13th.

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Police say tasty, wood-fired pizzas were probably cooked with "used" coffin wood

roadtrippers.com

Greg Newkirk
31 October, 2014

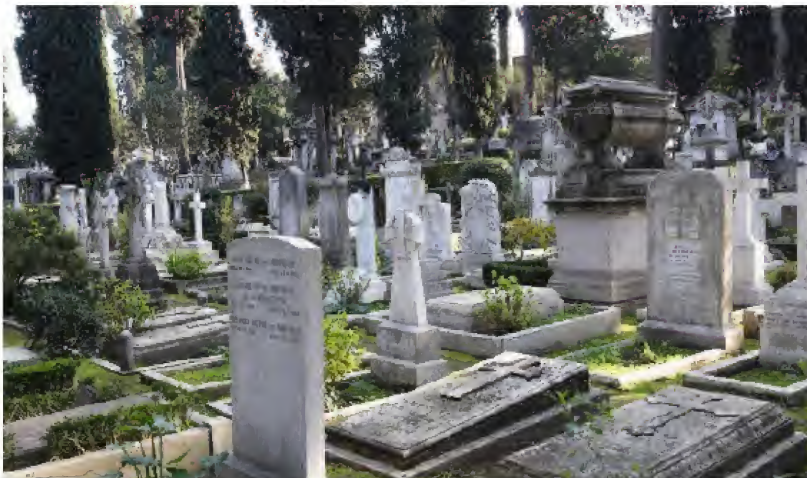
Delivery is great, but everyone knows that if you want to taste a real pizza, you head to Italy. Their pizzas are arguably the best in the world, hell, they even invented the Neopolitan. Why is it that the pizzas in Naples just so different? Well, pizza lovers, I may have some very bad news for you.. it's probably "used" coffin wood.



8324942-0-150007

It seems that Italy has been the site of thousands of grave robberies over the last several years, but it wasn't until 2009 that police began to notice that something strange was going on. That year, nearly 5,000 flower pots went missing from a local graveyard, only to resurface on the black market. But flower pots aren't the only thing being resold.

Via Week in Weird:



Swide

According to Italian police, there's reason to believe that coffins, even some hundreds of years old, and being dug up, chopped up, and sold to many low-end pizzerias in order to fuel the wood-stoves essential to the classic recipe. That delicious margherita pizza you ate while visiting Naples a few years ago? There's a good chance it tasted a little bit like a dead guy, and you didn't

even know it.

In order to follow up on their suspicions, the local police launched an investigation in 2010, but so far, there's been no break in the case. That's not exactly surprising, since Italy's roughly 25,000 pizzerias employ nearly 150,000 people and make loads and loads of money. Imagine what might happen to the pizza



Flickr

industry if tourists found out that their gourmet pies were flavored with old corpses. Oh. Whoops.

Oh. dear. god. Maybe think twice about the Neapolitan next time you head to Italy.

For a taste of some bizarre food that *wasn't* cooked on great great grandpa's coffin, check out some of our favorite weird dishes:

Greg Newkirk

Comments

Greg Newkirk
FLESH FOR CHEESE
Anna Hider
Just like Nona made?
Dana Newkirk
oh dear god...

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There have been many urban legends about bloody games, although Polybius is, among all of them, the only one that has all the appearance of having an iota of truth and probably the best known of all ...

Polybius The legend began in the suburbs of the city of Portland, in parts of Oklahoma and, according to some accounts, in northern California [1]. The year was 1981, a time

when the video game industry was in its infancy and arcades were filled rooms a feeling able to attract many players. That was the scenario in which it appeared the damn game Polybius, supposedly a kill Martians abstract something in which the player controlled a ship that was advancing through levels with type puzzle appearance. But the game had a particularity and that the ship was not moving with the command: instead the screen rotated around the ship while a range of vivid colors, lighting effects and synthesized sounds invade the senses of player like never before it had happened to another game. Everything suggested that the manufacturer, Sinneslöschen, hid the key to what would happen to the players after the translation of its name, "loss of consciousness". It was so, so he had a brilliant start, ended in the tragic end that turned the game into a legend.

And it is that at the beginning was a boom: the players were huge queues and no scrimping when it comes to feeding your money to slot machines Polybius; vice abounded and many young people returning again and again to the gambling halls as if such a powerful drug addiction as it were. But there was a problem and was that slot machines Polybius, far from swallowing only the currencies of the players, were also swallowing the sanity and health of those poor beings who innocently delighted to delirious play of light and colors that Polybius showed ...

So after a while began with complaints from gamers. They complained of dizziness, vomiting, blackouts, horrific nightmares that woke agitated in the middle of the night, visual and auditory hallucinations and even seizures in some cases. But the most frightening of all was some things that, being equally perceived by all, seemed to be a mere head product. First were some frightening ghostly faces that only looked out of the corner of my eye, faces crossed by the game screen at high speed, disappearing in the blink of an eye. Second it is that voices and cries fused with synthesizer music and noise could be heard game also subliminal messages are perceived almost inaudible frequencies messages that reappeared in the nightmares and hallucinations episodes, messages with content unsettling, able to lead to depression and suicide, "Honor apathy" (honor apathy) ", " Kill yourself "(kill yourself)," No imagination " (unimaginative)," not thought "(do not think)," Conform "(settle)," Do not question authority "(issues no authority) or" Surrender "(surrender), among others.

Many players came to feel a visceral hatred Polybius and some of them ended up hating the game in general and became recalcitrant anti-game activists. Others, despite complaining of the game and hate, they had the will to quit and continued playing while delirium gripped their fragile minds.

Many witnesses said they saw a man dressed in black, like the "Men in Black" at the end of the day approached the gambling halls that were Polybius machines, the administrator asked questions about the effects observed in the players, scoring on a list, were to game machines, configuraban certain parameters and then leave. According to legend once the "men in black" forgot to close the options menu in a salon. What witnesses saw was disturbing: there, in the Options menu, parameters such as

"nightmares", "auditory hallucinations", "visual hallucinations," "amnesia" and "subliminal messages" were visible. Disconcerting and terrible fact, the menu and the "men in black" gave rise to the belief that Polybius was a project of the US government, a perverse experiment with ways to build mechanisms by which numb the conscience of the masses or induce social unrest through apathy, depression and madness.

Fortunately for almost all machines Polybius were withdrawn by the "men in black" after the media scandal that started the local press in Portland after the horrible death of a young man who died between the contortions of a seizure after playing long . in an arcade Polybius

After the death of the young man there was not a single machine Polybius; but if there is something unquestionable, that is the existence, in some gambling halls, records that mention Polybius machines in 1981. In addition, many of those who administered these rooms have told gaming publications, in effect, the mysterious "men in black" always went to inspect the status of machines and users before the closed rooms.

Some of those who played Polybius said that the game had to move by type puzzle mazes while others said that what he had was a ship that fought in space. However it is known that Polybius had mechanisms that produce amnesia and because of that any gamer can remember well how was the game because, in other words, if the game was a secret government project then may have been designed not to be remembered evenly and well be relegated as a pure myth in the public imagination ...

But the legend does not end there. In 2006 Steven Roach said in various forums of the network that he had been part of the development team of Polybius, who had no secret government project and had simply wanted to experiment in the field of vector graphics unfortunately getting results as epilepsy or hallucinations in users. Finally, Steven Roach gave an interview to Parade Bit in which, among other things, said that the game had been rediscovered by hackers as Cyberyogi.

Many believe that the legend has been debunked but: what if the government paid to Steven Roach to lie ?, and if many of the alleged denials are simply a reflection of how it has fallen into the trap of the US government? As in Roswell, here the US government certainly moved things to make us think that everything is a myth; but, as few, the legend of Polybius must keep behind a shameful and twisted truth. **Contacto Paranormal US © 2013. All Rights Reserved. Powered by TIN**

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RESEARCH ARTICLE

Unique Dental Morphology of *Homo floresiensis* and Its Evolutionary Implications

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Abstract

Homo floresiensis is an extinct, diminutive hominin species discovered in the Late Pleistocene deposits of Liang Bua cave, Flores, eastern Indonesia. The nature and evolutionary origins of *H. floresiensis*' unique physical characters have been intensively debated. Based on extensive comparisons using linear metric analyses, crown contour analyses, and other trait-by-trait morphological comparisons, we report here that the dental remains from multiple individuals indicate that *H. floresiensis* had primitive canine-premolar and advanced molar morphologies, a combination of dental traits unknown in any other hominin species. The primitive aspects are comparable to *H. erectus* from the Early Pleistocene, whereas some of the molar morphologies are more progressive even compared to those of modern humans. This evidence contradicts the earlier claim of an entirely modern human-like dental morphology of *H. floresiensis*, while at the same time does not support the hypothesis that *H. floresiensis* originated from a much older *H. habilis* or *Australopithecus*-like small-brained hominin species currently unknown in the Asian fossil record. These results are however consistent with the alternative hypothesis that *H. floresiensis* derived from an earlier Asian *Homo erectus* population and experienced substantial body and brain size dwarfism in an isolated insular setting. The dentition of *H. floresiensis* is not a simple, scaled-down version of earlier hominins.

OPEN ACCESS

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Competing Interests: The authors have declared that no competing interests exist.

Introduction

Previous studies showed that *Homo floresiensis* exhibits unusually small body and brain sizes for a Late Pleistocene *Homo* [1], a *H. erectus*-like cranial shape [2,3], an *Australopithecus*-like upper vs. lower limb proportion [4–7], and other primitive, advanced, and unique skeletal features [8–14]. Researchers agree that this unique mosaic has significant evolutionary meaning, but disagree on what it is. Some anticipate that *H. floresiensis* evolved from an *Australopithecus* or *H. habilis*-like, primitive, small-brained hominin currently unknown in the Asian fossil

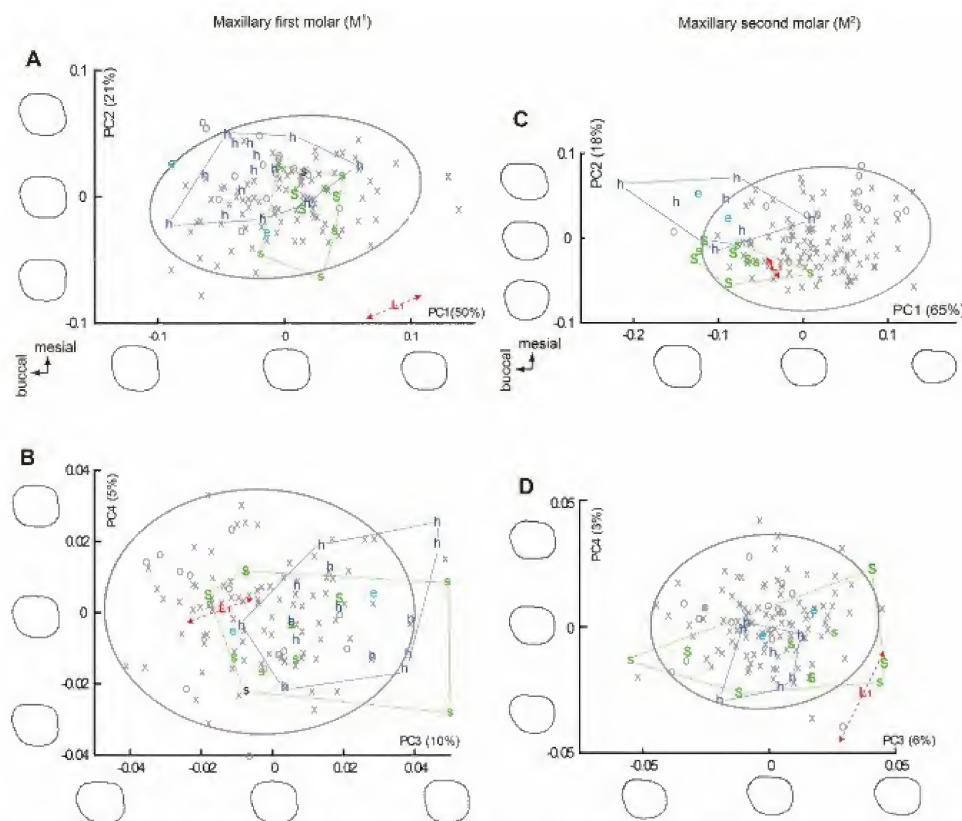


Fig 5. Plots of PC scores derived from the normalized Elliptic Fourier Analyses (EFAs) on the crown contours (maxillary molars). (A) and (B) Maxillary first molar. (C) and (D) Maxillary second molar. See Fig 4 for notes.

doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0141614.g005

of the 109 *H. sapiens* specimens exhibit this primitive condition (Table 2). The frequency for each of the archaic *Homo* samples was significantly different from that in *H. sapiens*, suggesting that a *H. sapiens*-like spatulate C_1 appeared or became dominant after *H. erectus/ergaster*. Other East African Early Pleistocene C_1 s (OH 13, OH 16, KNM-ER 992) apparently had similarly low distal shoulder morphology although metric data are not available for these worn or damaged specimens.

The single *H. floresiensis* C_1 available for this metric comparison (LB6/1: Fig 1G), whose distal shoulder remains unworn, also shares this primitive morphology (index = 52). The distal C_1 shoulder height for another *H. floresiensis* individual (LB1) cannot be measured due to wear, but the rounded mesial aspect and the convergent distal aspect of the occlusal outline of its exposed dentine (Fig 1A and 1B) suggests that the same also applies to this individual. In the *H. sapiens* sample, there is a weak correlation between the crown size (square root of the computed crown area) and the distal shoulder height index ($r = -0.408$, or -0.400 if logarithmic transformations are made) so that a smaller C_1 tends to have a relatively higher distal shoulder. The *H. floresiensis* C_1 s retain the low distal shoulder morphology despite being smaller than the modern human average in its LL diameter (Fig 7A).

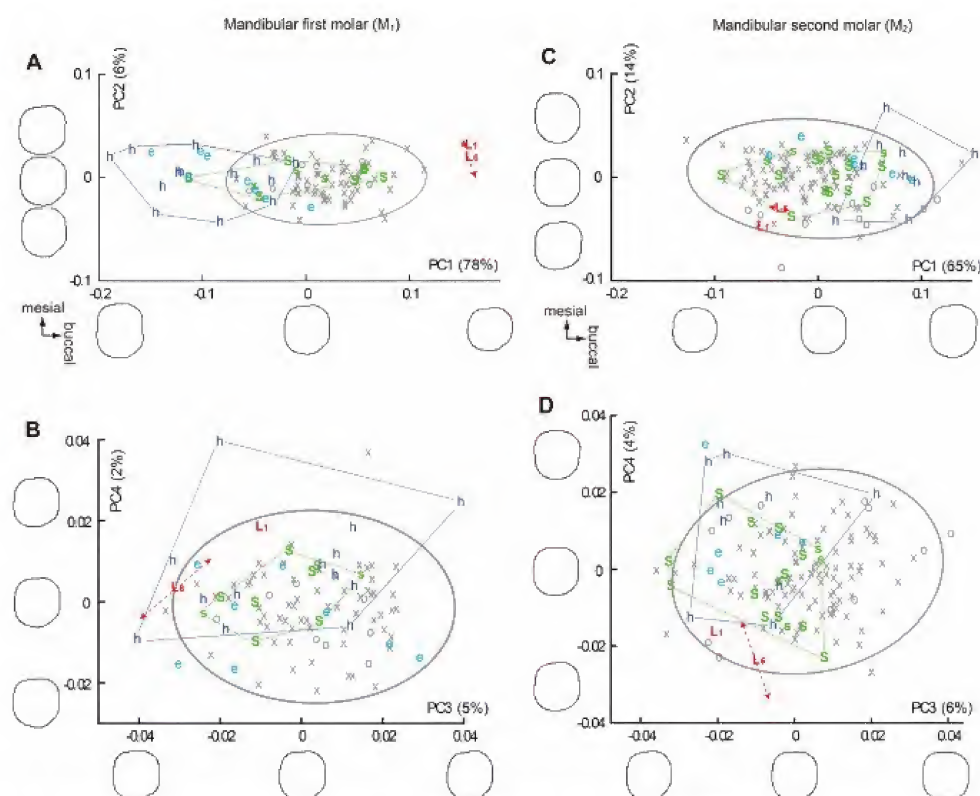


Fig 6. Plots of PC scores derived from the normalized Elliptic Fourier Analyses (EFAs) on the crown contours (mandibular molars). (A) and (B) Mandibular first molar. (C) and (D) Mandibular second molar. See Fig 4 for notes.

doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0141614.g006

P³ and P⁴ transverse crest (nos. 2 and 3 in Table 2)

A transverse crest on a maxillary premolar was recorded when the longitudinal groove does not continue as a deep, continuous groove at the bottom of the occlusal surface but is more or less interrupted by a crest formed by occlusal ridges of the buccal and lingual cusps (corresponding to the category 2 of ref. [59]), regardless of its position (i.e., mesial, middle, or distal on the longitudinal groove). Such a crest formation is rare in our global *H. sapiens* sample (2% for both P³ [N = 283] and P⁴ [N = 279]) as well as in an European-dominated *H. sapiens* sample studied by Martín-Torres et al. [65] (N = 124–132), but relatively common in the Early Pleistocene *Homo* (35% [P³] and 43% [P⁴] for our pooled Early Pleistocene sample) with significant differences between many pairs between the *H. sapiens* and the Early Pleistocene samples (Table 2). The P³ and P⁴ of *H. floresiensis* (LB1: Fig 1C) both exhibit this primitive trait (both on the enamel and EDJ surfaces) that is shared with *H. habilis* and early Javanese *H. erectus*.

P³ buccal grooves (no. 4 in Table 2)

Premolars of *Australopithecus* and earlier *Homo* variably express vertical grooves on the mesial and/or distal aspects of their buccal faces [40,55,58]. Here, we compared the frequencies of appearance of one or both of these buccal grooves as opposed to their total absence. Only distinct grooves were counted; specimens with faint grooves/furrows or occlusally situated short grooves were recorded as absent to include slightly worn teeth.

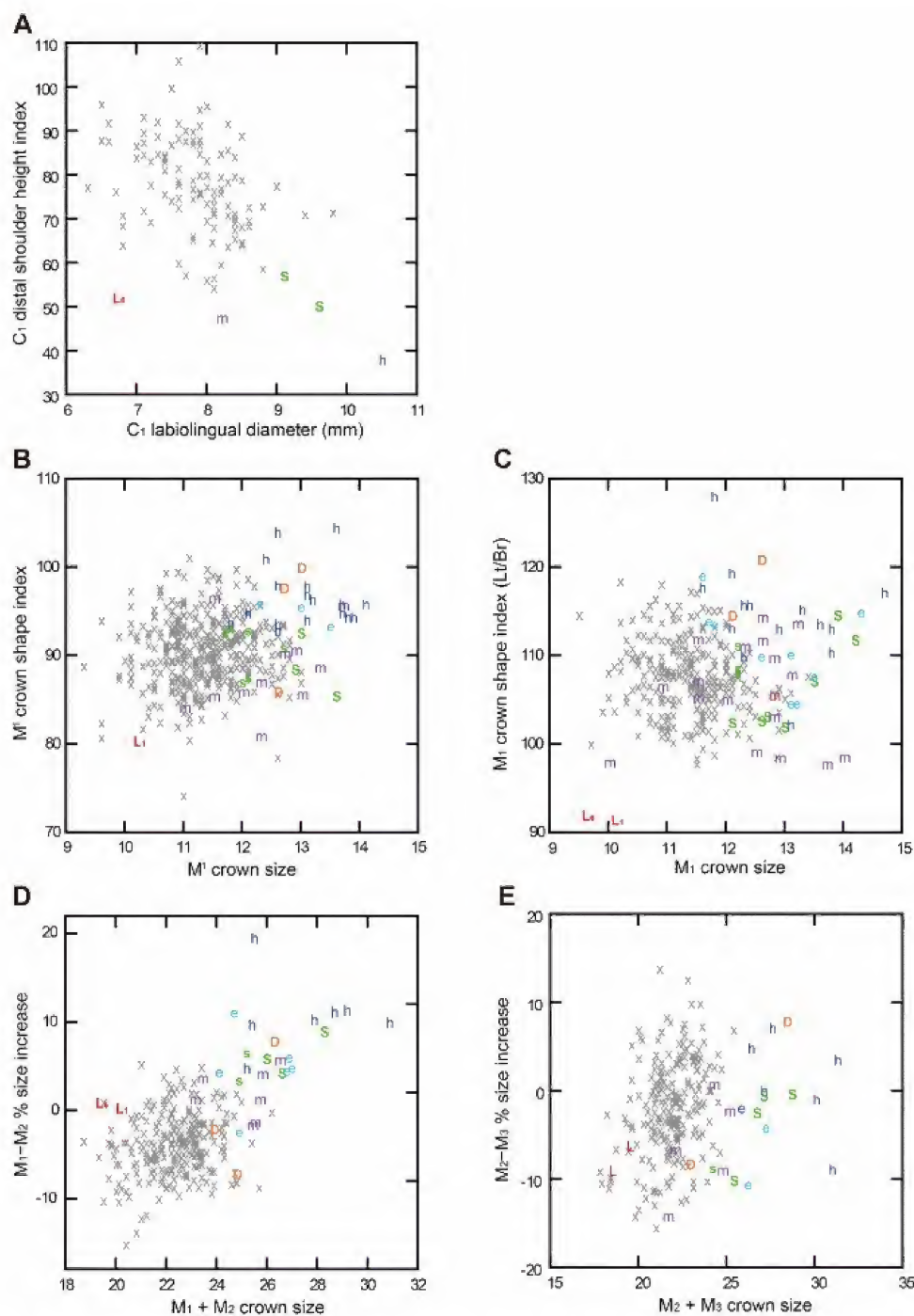


Fig 7. Relationships between tooth crown size and selected morphological traits. (A) C1 crown shape, (B) and (C) M1 crown shape, (D) and (E) Mandibular molar size proportions. The 'crown size' is square root of the computed crown area (MD × BL diameters).

doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0141614.g007

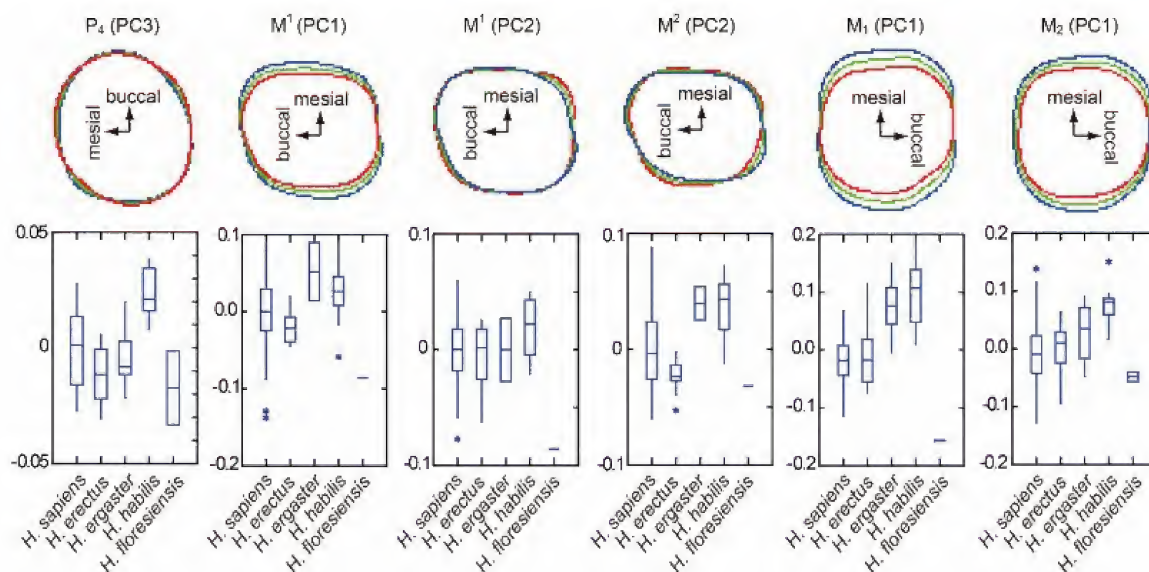


Fig 8. Six PCs showing significant differences in crown contours between *H. habilis* and early Javanese *H. erectus*. The positive and negative are reversed from Figs 4, 5 and 6 in PC3 for P_4 , PC1 for M_1 , and PC1 for M_1 , for the sake of unanimity in the directions of variation. See Figs 4, 5 and 6 for component loading for each PC. The shape variation reflected by each PC is shown in the upper row. Blue and red lines indicate contours of +2 SD and -2 SD of the entire sample, respectively. The green line is the grand mean. In all of these six cases, the contours of *H. floresiensis* are close to the red outlines, and those of *H. habilis* to blue outlines. Box plots of the PC scores are shown in the lower row. Note that *H. habilis* plots far from *H. floresiensis* whereas early Javanese *H. erectus* is closer to *H. floresiensis* in all these PCs.

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Buccal groove(s) are present in all the *H. habilis* P^3 s examined ($N = 12$), but 30–40% or more of the P^3 s lack these grooves in later *Homo* groups, with the observed frequencies significantly different in many pair-wise comparisons between the *H. habilis* and the later *Homo* samples. In our sample, groove-free P^3 s appear only after *H. habilis*. Thus, the total absence of P^3 buccal grooves in *H. floresiensis* (LB1: Fig 1C) is a derived condition at least relative to *H. habilis*.

P^4 lingual crown development (no. 6 in Table 2)

The previous geometric morphometric analyses [49] demonstrated that the most marked change in the crown shapes of the *Homo* maxillary premolars is reduction of the lingual crown. *Australopithecus afarensis*, *Au. africanus*, and *H. habilis* often exhibits a primitive configuration of MD pronounced lingual cusp that is equal to or slightly exceeds the buccal cusp, whereas a lingually tapering crown shape is a typical observation in more recent *Homo* [55,74–76]. Although we did not include the LB1 maxillary premolars in our EFA, the above known trend can be examined in part for P^4 by a simple comparison between the buccal and lingual crown MD diameters.

In the present study, a P^4 was recorded as ‘lingual crown MD extensive’ in Table 2 when its maximum MD dimensions were buccal \leq lingual. A few *H. sapiens* specimens develop a large distal accessory tubercle that obscures the above crown configuration. These specimens were recorded as missing data. The result (Table 2) shows that the *H. habilis*, the Dmanisi *Homo*, and the early Javanese *H. erectus* samples include a significantly higher frequency of specimens with a well-developed lingual crown than in *H. sapiens*, consistent with the previous findings [49]. Interestingly, a considerable number (4/6) of the East Asian Middle-Late Pleistocene

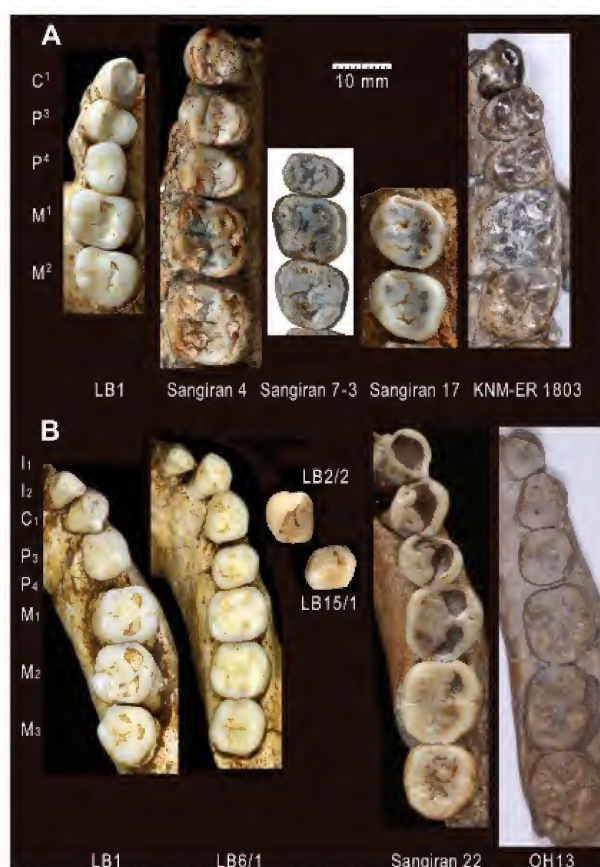


Fig 9. Dentitions of *H. floresiensis* and selected Early Pleistocene *Homo* specimens. Maxillary (A) and mandibular (B) dentitions of *H. floresiensis* (LB), early Javanese *H. erectus* (Sangiran), and *H. habilis* (KNM-ER and OH).

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archaic *Homo* P^4 s exhibit the advanced, reduced lingual crown morphology (Zhoukoudian, Chaoxian, and Xujiayao). The *H. floresiensis* P^4 (LB1: Fig 1C) shows a primitive 'buccal = lingual' configuration but is different from a more primitive 'buccal < lingual' configuration often observed in *H. habilis* (5/8) and Dmanisi *Homo* (2/2).

P_3 lingual cusp position (no. 7 in Table 2). This trait was assessed with reference to the protoconid apex and the axis of the mesial and distal protoconid crests [40]. The lingual cusp (metaconid) position was recorded as 'mesial' when it is located slightly mesial or opposite to the buccal cusp (protoconid). All nine P_3 s of *H. habilis* display this primitive pattern reported for *Au. afarensis* [40,61,77] and is associated with a MD spacious talonid, but the lingual cusp is located distally relative to the buccal cusp in a few post-*habilis* *Homo* specimens (Table 2). This latter pattern is found in Dmanisi *Homo* (D211 [right only], 2735 [right only]) and African *H. ergaster* (KNM-ER 992, KNM-WT 15000 [left only]; OH 22), as well as Zhoukoudian *H. erectus* (Zdansky P_3), suggesting that it emerged after ~1.75 Ma in *Homo* [24]. A distally located P_3 lingual cusp is also occasionally found in *H. sapiens* (28/197 = 14%), although its differences from the *H. habilis* sample is not significant probably because of the relative rareness

Table 2. Results of the non-metric and linear metric comparisons.

	<i>H. habilis</i>	<i>H. erg.</i>	Dmanisi	eJ <i>H. erectus</i> (Lower, Upper) ^c	MP East Asia	<i>H. sapiens</i>	<i>H. floresiensis</i> (status) ^d
Non-metric comparisons of individual teeth (frequency and ratio) ^a							
1 C ₁ distal shoulder low (vs. high)	1/1	—	—	2/2**	1/1	*3/109 3%	1/1 (EP-MP)
2 P ³ transverse crest present	5/11** 45%	1/5 20%	0/1	3/9** (2/5, 1/4) 33%	1/8 13%	**6/283 2%	1/1 (EP)
3 P ⁴ transverse crest present	3/10** 30%	2/3**	1/2*	4/8** (1/4, 3/4) 50%	1/8 13%	**5/279 2%	1/1 (EP)
4 P ³ buccal groove(s) present	12/12** 100%	**1/5 20%	0/1	6/9 (4/5, 2/4) 67%	**2/6 33%	**139/245 57%	0/1 (post-Hh)
6 P ⁴ lingual crown MD extensive	8/8** 100%	1/2	2/2*	4/4** (2/2, 2/2) 100%	*2/6 33%	**33/198 17%	1/1 (EP)
7 P ₃ lingual cusp posi. mesially (vs. distally)	9/9 100%	*3/6 50%	1/2	3/3 (2/2, 1/1)	8/9 89%	163/197 83%	0/3 (post-Hh)
9 P ₃ mesiolingual crown beveled and wrinkled	0/9 0%	0/6 0%	0/2	0/4 (0/3, 0/1) 0%	0/9 0%	0/214 0%	3/3 (unique)
11 P ₄ transverse crest present	0/7 0%	*5/7** 71%	0/2	*4/6* (3/4, 1/2) 67%	**5/6** 83%	40/220 18%	2/2 (post-Hh)
14 P ₃ buccal basal enamel thickened (cingulum)	1/6* 17%	0/5 0%	1/3?*	1/3* (1/3, —)	1/7* 14%	*0/207 0%	1/3 (EP-MP)
15 P ₃ root bifurcated (vs. fused or single)	4/13** 31%	2/5* 40%	1/1	3/6** (3/6, —) 50%	0/7 0%	**26/599 ^a 4%	2/3 (EP)
17 M ₁ four-cusped (vs. five-cusped)	0/13 0%	0/10 0%	0/2	0/9 (0/7, 0/2) 0%	0/14 0%	9/268 3%	2/2 (Hs)
18 M ₂ four-cusped (vs. five-cusped)	0/9** 0%	0/8** 0%	0/2	0/15** (0/12, 0/3) ¹ 0%	0/12** 0%	**163/279 58%	2/2 (Hs)
19 M ₁ mid-trigonid crest present	0/7 0%	1/9 11%	2/2	4/9** (3/6, 1/3) 44%	1/9 11%	7/176 4%	1/1
Metric comparisons of dentition as a whole (minimum / maximum, and sample size in the lower rows) ^b							
21 Relative P ₃ size (%)	24 / 26 N = 5	26 / 28 N = 3	26 / 27 N = 2	(26, —) N = 1, —	26 / 28 N = 3	22 / 27 N = 188	30 (unique) N = 2
22 Molar size % increase: M ₁ →M ₂	+5 / +20 N = 7	−2 / +11 N = 6	−2 / +8 N = 3	(+4 / +9, +4 / +7) N = 3, 2	−2 / +4 N = 6	−15 / +5 N = 250	0 / +1 (post-Hh) N = 2
23 Alv. arcade index (Lth/Bth, %)	117 / 156 N = 5	98 N = 1	123 N = 2	(107 / 108, —) N = 2, —	88 N = 1	—	103 / 105 (eJHe) N = 2

^aObserved frequencies and percent ratios (for those samples with N ≥ 4) as well as the results of the Fisher's exact tests for the non-metric comparisons (nos. 1–20). The asterisk(s) to the right of each frequency indicates significant difference from the *H. sapiens* sample, and that on the left significant differences from the *H. habilis* sample (*: *P* < 0.05, **: *P* < 0.01).

^bThe minimum and maximum values, and sample sizes (in the lower rows) are shown for the metric comparisons (nos. 21–23).

^cFrequencies for the Sangiran Lower and Upper subsamples in the parentheses.

^dMorphological status of *H. floresiensis* in the parentheses: 'EP', a primitive condition shared with the Afro-Asian Early Pleistocene *Homo*; 'EP-MP', a primitive condition shared with the Afro-Asian Early Pleistocene *Homo* and the East Asian Middle-Late Pleistocene archaic *Homo*; 'post-Hh', a condition derived from *H. habilis*; 'Hs', a derived condition shared with *H. sapiens*; 'eJHe', a condition most similar to early Javanese *H. erectus*; 'unique', a unique condition restricted to *H. floresiensis*.

^eSample studied by Shields [73].

^fZanolli [35] recently suggested the presence of 4-cusped M₂s in this group.

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of this morphology. The three *H. floresiensis* P₃s (LB1, LB2/2, LB6/1) exhibit this derived, distally oriented lingual cusp placement [24] (Fig 1A, 1B, 1E, 1G and 1H).

P₃ mesiolingual beveling (no. 9 in Table 2). A hominin P₃ is usually associated with a moderately thick and high mesial marginal ridge (that is often continuous but is occasionally interrupted by a vertical groove) as well as a distinct anterior fovea (either in the form of a pit or a slit). The *H. floresiensis* P₃s are unique showing poor development of both of these structures. Instead, their entire mesiolingual occlusal surface is flattened and finely wrinkled, and is beveled mesially and lingually [24] (Fig 1A, 1B, 1E, 1G and 1H). We failed to find a single specimen with comparable morphology in our P₃ samples of *H. habilis* (N = 9), *H. ergaster* (N = 6), Dmanisi *Homo* (N = 2), early Javanese *H. erectus* (N = 4), Chinese archaic *Homo* (N = 9), as well as *H. sapiens* (N = 214).

P₄ transverse crest (no. 11 in Table 2). Transverse crest on mandibular premolars were recorded based on the same criterion used for the maxillary premolars (nos. 3 and 4). The available small sample suggests that a P₄ transverse crest that intervenes in the longitudinal groove appeared in post-*habilis* grade *Homo* (Table 2). *Homo ergaster*, early Javanese *H. erectus*, and the Middle Pleistocene East Asian archaic *Homo* display a significantly higher frequency of occurrence of this crest than in *H. habilis*. However, the observed frequencies significantly decrease from these post-*habilis* archaic *Homo* groups to the *H. sapiens*. Thus frequent occurrence of P₄ transverse crest is probably a primitive feature shared among post-*habilis* archaic *Homo*. This crest is commonly observed also in the European Middle-Late Pleistocene archaic *Homo* (~86%) [65,66,68]. At least one *H. floresiensis* individual (LB6/1) and probably a second (LB15/1) show this condition that is derived compared to *H. habilis* (Fig 1F–1H).

P₃ buccal basal enamel swelling (cingulum) (no. 14 in Table 2). Buccal enamel of canine, premolar, and molar teeth of *Australopithecus* occasionally show cingulum-like basal swelling to form a distinct band along the cervical line [55,74,76,78,79]. We counted this primitive morphology in our *Homo* samples focusing on P₃. Such a structure was found in OH 6, Sangiran 22, and *Sinanthropus* 70 (a specimen belonging to the BI mandibles). P₃ of D2735 also has a similar structure (Martinón-Torres, personal communication) although it was previously described as a feature associated with enamel hypoplasia [43]. None of the *H. sapiens* P₃s we examined exhibit basal enamel swelling on their buccal faces (N = 207), but one of the three *H. floresiensis* P₃s (LB1) clearly possesses this primitive character (Fig 1B).

P₃ root form (no. 15 in Table 2). Wood et al. [60] schematized variation and evolution of mandibular premolar root number and spatial arrangement in *Paranthropus* and *Homo*. Although *Australopithecus* lacks a clear evolutionary trend in premolar root configuration [80], *Homo* shows a general trend of root number reduction from two-rooted patterns ('MB + D' pattern for P³ and 'M + D' pattern for P⁴, respectively) to a single-root form through varying forms of fusion between the two root components [60]. In the present study, we compiled frequency data of bifurcated versus fused/single mandibular premolar roots from the literature [33,40,41,43,45,62,73,81,82]. When distinct mesial and distal root components are fused to each other along their buccal margins [80], the specimens were counted as two-rooted.

The results in Table 2 show that this trait is polymorphic in most samples compared here [60], but the Early Pleistocene *Homo* samples show bifurcated roots significantly more than in the large global modern human sample studied by Shield [73]. Two of the three *H. floresiensis* individuals exhibit bifurcated P₃ roots that are arranged in 'MB + D' pattern (LB1, 6/1) and the other individual has a fused ('Tomes') root (LB2/2) [24]. Given the rareness of the two-rooted P₃s in *H. sapiens* (4%, N = 599) [73], the comparatively high frequency of this morphology in *H. floresiensis* (2/3) probably reflects its primitiveness [15]. More detailed morphometric analyses are needed to further investigate this issue (e.g., refs. [83–85]).

M₁ cusp number (no. 17 in Table 2). The absence of a hypoconulid on the M₁ (four-cusped M₁) is a trait unknown in *H. habilis*, *H. ergaster*, Dmanisi *Homo*, early Javanese *H. erectus* [43], as well as the Middle Pleistocene archaic hominin dental collection from China [45,81,86], although there is a report that two mid-Middle Pleistocene M₁s from Atapuerca-Sima de los Huesos, Spain, exhibit this morphology [65]. A four-cusped M₁ is also rare in modern humans [68], with an observed frequency of 3% in our global sample (N = 269) and 1% in a much larger sample (N = 6790: Appendix A in ref. [87]). Although this frequency is as high as 10% in modern Europeans and Northern Africans, the reported frequencies are much lower in modern human populations from the other regions of the world. Despite its rarity, the M₁s from the two *H. floresiensis* individuals (LB1, 6/1) lack the hypoconulid and are four-cusped [24] (Fig 1D and 1I). In our modern human sample, 4-cusped M₁s are significantly smaller than 5-cusped M₁s ($P = 0.01$, two-tailed t-test). This relationship raises a possibility that the loss of the M₁ hypoconulid occurred independently in *H. floresiensis* associated with its unusual crown shortening (Figs 2 and 6A).

M₂ cusp number (no. 18 in Table 2). All of the fossil M₂s examined in this study (the archaic *Homo* samples from the Early Pleistocene of Africa, Caucasus, and Java, as well as the Middle Pleistocene of East Asia) have five major cusps, although possible occurrence of four-cusped M₂s in early Javanese *H. erectus* has recently been reported [35,88]. Four-cusped M₂s are also reported for several individuals of the European Middle Pleistocene archaic *Homo* (Atapuerca-Sima de los Huesos) [65]. This condition is quite common in *H. sapiens* [63,68,87] (59% in Table 2).

The M₂s from two *H. floresiensis* individuals are four-cusped [24] (LB1, 6/1: Fig 1D and 1I). As in the case for the M₁, the loss of a hypoconulid occurred probably in association with the crown size reduction [68]. Four-cusped M₂s are significantly smaller than 5-cusped M₂s in our *H. sapiens* sample ($P = 0.000$, two-tailed t-test). Scott and Turner [87] observed a similar association in their sample of Pima Indians.

M₁ mid-trigonid crest (no. 19 in Table 2). A mid-trigonid crest (terminology follows ref. [69]) that bridges between the protoconid and metaconid and borders the distal aspect of the anterior fovea is common in the M₁s and M₂s of Neanderthals and European Middle Pleistocene *Homo* but relatively rare in *H. sapiens* [65–67,89]. Martín-Torres et al. [43,64] suggested that this crest characterizes Eurasian archaic hominins as compared to African *H. habilis* and *H. ergaster* (see also ref. [90]), although other researchers caution that this crest takes variable forms [67] and more detailed studies are needed than a simple presence/absence dichotomy.

Still, our data indicate this simple method can be used to distinguish *Homo* taxa [43,64]. In our samples, this crest occurs significantly more often on the M₁s of early Javanese *H. erectus* than in *H. sapiens* ($P = 0.003$, Fisher's exact test). A distinct mid-trigonid crest is absent in the available seven *H. habilis* M₁s, but present in the two Dmanisi M₁s [43]. Although the presence/absence of a mid-trigonid crest is obscured in the LB1 M₁ by wear, the strong expression of a crest on its EDJ surface (Fig 1C; Ref. [24]) strongly suggests that the crest was originally present on its enamel surface [67,69]. Therefore, this *H. floresiensis* individual probably shares the crested M₁ with the Eurasian Early Pleistocene *Homo* groups.

P₃ relative size (no. 21 in Table 2). As demonstrated in the main text and Fig 2, *H. floresiensis* is unique in having a remarkably large P₃. In this section, we further examine this trait by comparing the relative MD lengths of P₃/(P₃+M₁+M₂) [24]. The data in Table 2 show that none of the archaic *Homo* (N = 14) and *H. sapiens* (N = 188) specimens reach the high index values exhibited by the two *H. floresiensis* individuals, confirming the remarkable relative P₃ size in this species. Allometry does not explain this unique morphology of *H. floresiensis* because its tooth size is within the variation of *H. sapiens* (Fig 2), and the smaller-toothed *H.*

sapiens tend to show smaller relative P_3 MD lengths than in the larger-toothed archaic *Homo* specimens (Table 2).

Molar size proportion (no. 22 in Table 2). During the course of *Homo* evolution, the posterior molars experienced more marked size reduction than in the first molar, resulting in an alteration of the molar size sequence from plesiomorphic ' $M_1 < M_2 \geq M_3$ ' to derived ' $M_1 > M_2 > M_3$ ' [56,91]. In the present comparison, we compare percent increases of the 'tooth crown size' (square root of the calculated crown area [$MD \times BL$]) from M_1 to M_2 ($[(M_2 - M_1)/M_1]$), and from M_2 to M_3 ($[(M_3 - M_2)/M_2]$). The results for the M_2 - M_3 size proportions are reported in S3 Table and S1 Text because we found no clear inter-group differences for this trait.

As for the M_1 - M_2 size proportion, the results in Table 2 show that *H. habilis* exhibits a primitive pattern of $M_1 < M_2$ (5–20% increase). Early Javanese *H. erectus* is also close to this primitive condition (4–9% increase), whereas the pattern observed in two *H. floresiensis* individuals, $M_1 \approx M_2$ (0% [LB1] and 1% [LB6/1]), is found in Dmanisi *Homo*, *H. ergaster*, East Asian Middle Pleistocene archaic *Homo*, and *H. sapiens*. Thus, the M_1 - M_2 size pattern exhibited by *H. floresiensis* appeared only after *H. habilis*. Our global *H. sapiens* sample shows a wide range of variation from –15% to +5% with a weak correlation with the crown size ($M_1 + M_2$) ($r = 0.202$). The values of the two *H. floresiensis* individuals are atypical for *H. sapiens* when this correlation is taken into consideration (Fig 7D).

Alveolar arcade shape (no. 23 in Table 2). Alveolar arcade shape is a useful indicator in hominin taxonomy [30,33,92–94]. A previous study showed that the mandibular arcade shapes of LB1 and LB6/1 are broader (more derived) than *Au. afarensis* (L.H. 4; A.L. 266–1, 288–1i, 400–1a; MAK-VP-1/12), *H. habilis sensu lato* (KNM-ER 1805, OH13), and Dmanisi *Homo* (D211, 2600), narrower (more primitive) than most of the African post-*habilis* archaic *Homo* (KNM-ER 730; KNM-BK 8518; Tighenif 1, 3) and Chinese *H. erectus* (Zhoukoudian H1), but similar to the arcades of early Javanese *H. erectus* (Sangiran 9 and 22) [2].

Table 2 shows a data set cited from ref. [2] and including the index values from one recently discovered and two newly reconstructed *H. habilis s. l.* mandibles: KNM-ER 60000 (adult, 126%) [42], OH 7 (late juvenile, 156%) [30] and KNM-ER 1802 (adolescent, 147%) [30]. Here, the 'alveolar arcade index' is the length-breadth ratio based on the distance between the right and left intersection points of the distal contour of M_3 and the midline of molar row (breadth), and the distance from infradentale to a line tangential to the distal faces of right and left M_3 crowns (length). The inclusion of these additional specimens further strengthens the previous conclusion: the two *H. floresiensis* mandibles are derived compared to *H. habilis* and Dmanisi *Homo*, and are most similar to early Javanese *H. erectus* in mandibular arcade shape.

Discussion

We comprehensively analyzed individual dental characters of *H. floresiensis* by combining various metric (linear measurement and EFA), other numerical, and statistical comparisons.

Table 3 integrates the results of these analyses to summarize dental evolutionary trends in *Homo*. As for the categorical traits (#1–#23), primitive conditions exhibited by the *H. habilis sensu lato* sample are described in the "Character" list, and "yes" means that the relevant group is primitive for that trait. The "Status" column denotes morphological status of *H. floresiensis* as described in the footnote of this table. Table 3 is based on a large sample of the Early Pleistocene *Homo* (East Africa, Georgia, and Java) and a large, global sample of modern human teeth, and thus provides us with a reliable framework to evaluate the dental evolutionary position of *H. floresiensis* (and perhaps other *Homo* specimens from different regions).

Table 3. Dental character distribution in the *Homo* groups and status of *H. floresiensis*.

Character	Refer to	EP				MP	LP		Status ^a
		<i>H. hab.</i>	<i>H. erg.</i>	Dmanisi	eJHe	E-Asia	<i>H. sap.</i>	<i>H. flo.</i>	<i>H. flo.</i>
#1 C ¹ distal shoulder low (vs. high)	1 in Table 2, Fig 7A	yes	–	–	yes	yes	no	yes	EP-MP
#2 P ³ & P ⁴ transverse crest often present	2 & 3 in Table 2	yes	yes?	?	yes	no?	no	yes	EP
#3 P ³ buccal groove(s) always present	4 in Table 2	yes	no	no	no	no	no	no	post-Hh
#4 P ⁴ crown buccal < lingual	6 in Table 2	yes	?	yes	yes	no	no	yes	EP
#5 P ₃ crown long MD & asymmetric	PCs1 & 2 in Fig 4A	yes	yes	–	yes	–	no	yes	EP
#6 P ₃ lingual cusp located mesially (vs. distally on occasion)	7 in Table 2	yes	no	no	yes	no	no	no	post-Hh
#7 P ₃ mesiolingual crown normal (vs. beveled and wrinkled)	9 in Table 2	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	unique
#8 P ₃ buccal basal enamel swelling	14 in Table 2	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	EP-MP
#9 P ₃ root often bifurcated (vs. Tomes' form or single)	15 in Table 2	yes	yes	yes?	yes	no	no	yes	EP
#10 P ₄ crown oblique (vs. MD symmetric)	PC2 in Fig 4C	yes	yes	–	yes	–	variable	yes	EP range
#11 P ₄ crown triangular (vs. more circular)	PC3 in Fig 4D	yes	variable	–	no	–	variable	no	post-Hh
#12 P ₄ transverse crest absent (vs. present)	11 in Table 2	yes	no	no	no	no	often yes	no	post-Hh
#13 M ¹ crown long & parallelogram (vs. short & rectangle)	PCs1 & 2 in Fig 5A	yes	yes	–	no	–	variable	no+	unique
#14 M ¹ crown distobuccal corner projected (vs. abbreviated)	PC3 in Fig 5B	yes	yes	–	yes	–	variable	yes	EP range
#15 M ² crown long MD and distally tapering	PCs1 & 4 in Fig 5C and 5D	yes	yes	–	yes	–	variable	yes	EP range
#16 M ² crown parallelogram (vs. inverted trapezoid)	PC2 in Fig 5C	yes	yes	–	no	–	variable	no	post-Hh
#17 M ₁ crown long MD (vs. short)	PC1 in Figs 6A and 7C	yes	yes	–	no	–	no	no+	unique
#18 M ₁ crown squarish (vs. pentagonal)	PC3 in Fig 6B	yes	variable	–	yes	–	variable	yes	EP range
#19 M ₁ five-cusped (vs. four-cusped)	17 in Table 2	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	not always	no	Hs
#20 M ₂ crown long MD (vs. short)	PC1 in Fig 6C	yes	variable	–	no	–	variable	no	post-Hh
#21 M ₂ crown rounded (vs. square)	PC3 in Fig 6D	yes	yes	–	yes	–	variable	yes	EP range
#22 M ₂ five-cusped (vs. four-cusped or less)	18 in Table 2	yes	yes	yes	no?	yes	no	no	Hs?
#23 M ₁ mid-trigonid crest absent or rare	19 in Table 2	yes	?	no	no	?	yes	no	post-Hh
#24 Relative P ₃ size	21 in Table 2	moderate	moderate	moderate	moderate	moderate	small	large	unique
#25 M ₁ /M ₂ size proportion	22 in Table 2, Fig 7D	M ₁ < M ₂	M ₁ ≤ M ₂	M ₁ ≤ M ₂	M ₁ < M ₂	M ₁ = M ₂	M ₁ ≥ M ₂	M ₁ = M ₂	post-Hh
#26 Alveolar arcade index (length-breadth index [%])	23 in Table 2	narrow	wide?	narrow	moderate	wide	–	moderate	eJHe

EP = Early Pleistocene; MP = Middle Pleistocene; LP = Late Pleistocene; *H. hab.* = *H. habilis*; *H. erg.* = *H. ergaster*; eJHe = early Javanese *H. erectus*; MP E-Asia = East Asian Middle Pleistocene archaic *Homo*; *H. sap.*, Hs = *H. sapiens*; *H. flo.* = *H. floresiensis*.

^aStatus of *H. floresiensis* is categorized as follows: EP = a primitive condition shared with the Early Pleistocene *Homo*; EP-MP = a primitive condition shared with the Early-Middle Pleistocene *Homo*; EP range = within the range of the Early Pleistocene *Homo*, which is mostly encompassed by the large variation of *H. sapiens*; post-Hh = derived from the *H. habilis* condition; Hs = derived like *H. sapiens*; unique = unique among all the samples compared; eJHe = similar to the condition of early Javanese *H. erectus*.

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Based on [Table 3](#), we examined character distributions of the 26 dental traits in the various *Homo* groups compared here, and evaluated the dental evolutionary position of *H. floresiensis*. We did not employ here a cladistic or distance analyses. Although such methods can integrate information from different characters, the results would be difficult to interpret because we still do not have enough knowledge about at least two essential elements for these types of analyses:

record and thus signals unexpectedly early hominin dispersal into this region [14–19], whereas others suggest that the species is an example of substantial body and brain size insular dwarfism from Asian *H. erectus* [1,2,20,21]. In this paper, we present the first comprehensive analyses of their dental morphology to further contribute this debate.

Teeth are one of the most informative elements in hominin evolutionary studies [22], and this is no exception in the case of *H. floresiensis*. Unlike postcranial elements, abundant comparative fossil specimens are available for the teeth. Indeed, only one cranium of *H. floresiensis* currently exists (LB1), but dental remains represent up to three individuals for each tooth. Nevertheless, interpretations of the *H. floresiensis* dental morphology has been controversial, with opinion divided if their teeth are primitive [15] or modern like *H. sapiens* [23]. “How primitive” is another unresolved question. For example, there is a claim that the mesiodistally elongated P₃ of *H. floresiensis* represents a very primitive hominin condition not seen in *H. erectus* [15], but more detailed analyses of this and other dental traits are needed to assess its taxonomic affinity [24].

The currently available *H. floresiensis* dental sample is comprised of one nearly complete maxillary dentition (LB1), two almost complete mandibular dentitions (LB1, LB6/1), and four isolated teeth (I¹ [LB15/2], I₁ [LB6/14], P₃ [LB2/2], P₄ [LB15/1]) (Fig 1). All of these specimens are housed at the National Research and Development Centre for Archaeology, Jakarta. Full morphological descriptions of these specimens are available elsewhere along with a reassessment of the previous studies [24]. The purpose of the present study is to examine general dental evolutionary trends in Early Pleistocene *Homo* with particular emphasis on *H. floresiensis*’ two major ancestral candidates, the earliest *Homo* from Africa (*H. habilis sensu lato*: >2.3–1.6 Ma [million years ago]) and early Javanese *H. erectus* (>1.2–0.8 Ma) [2], and evaluate *H. floresiensis* within this framework. Comparisons are also made with a sample of global modern humans including local prehistoric populations (N = 490) to examine dental morphological modernity in *H. floresiensis*. Three analytical approaches are employed: 1) traditional metric analyses based on crown length and breadth data, 2) comparisons of crown contour using normalized Elliptic Fourier Analysis (EFA), and 3) non-metric and linear metric comparisons of individual morphological traits not captured by the above two analyses.

Materials and Methods

Comparative samples

Comparative fossil *Homo* samples are from the Early Pleistocene of Africa (*H. habilis s. l.*, *H. ergaster*), Caucasasia (Dmanisi *Homo*), and Indonesia (early Javanese *H. erectus*) as listed in S1 Table. These include the claimed two major ancestral candidates for *H. floresiensis* (*H. habilis* and early Javanese *H. erectus*). We focused on these Early Pleistocene samples to investigate the evolution of *H. floresiensis* because of its generally primitive cranial and other skeletal morphology [2,10,11,13,14,17], with the expectation that larger-brained hominins could not be the ancestor of this small-brained species [25], as well as the evidence for the presence of hominins (stone artifacts) on Flores ~1.0 Ma [26]. For linear metric and non-metric analyses, data from East Asian Middle Pleistocene archaic *Homo* specimens were also included. All necessary permits were obtained for the described study, which complied with all relevant regulations. Studies on the original specimens from Kenya (Turkana) and Tanzania (Olduvai) were conducted under the research permits No. NCST 5/002/R/124 issued by the National Council of Science and Technology, Kenya, and No. 2008-324-NA-2008-124 issued by the Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology.

Debate continues if *H. habilis s. l.* includes diverse evolving lineages [27–30], but we pooled the relevant specimens from East Africa for the present purpose to recognize the primitive

intercharacter correlations (i.e., some characters may be more or less correlated to each other and thus cannot be regarded as independent characters), and relative taxonomic significance for each character (i.e., some of these 26 traits may be more significant than others in taxonomic identification). We acknowledge that our “traditional” character list approach is also not free from these problems. Because of this, for example, simple counts of shared/unshared traits should not be directly translated as to the strength (or weakness) of taxonomic affinity between the groups under comparison. However, we found that the results of this analysis are consistent, straightforward, and clearly informs about dental morphological trends in *H. floresiensis*. Table 3 shows that *H. floresiensis* shares primitive conditions with some or all of the Early Pleistocene *Homo* groups in 20 traits (indicated as ‘EP,’ ‘EP-MP,’ ‘EP range,’ ‘post-Hh,’ or ‘eJHe’ in the Status column), unique in four traits (‘unique’ in the Status column), and derived like *H. sapiens* in two traits (‘Hs’ in the Status column).

We first discuss the 20 possibly primitive dental traits. Ten of these (nos. #3, #6, #10, #11, #14–16, #18, #20, #21) are also shared by *H. sapiens* due to the latter’s large variation [68] and may not be taxonomically diagnostic. Further, we do not have comparative data for the *H. sapiens* sample for another character (#26). However, in the other nine characters (nos. #1, #2, #4, #5, #8, #9, #12, #23, #25), *H. sapiens* is derived and different from *H. floresiensis* and other archaic *Homo* groups. This finding contradicts the previous suggestion that the dental morphology of *H. floresiensis* is entirely modern [23]. In sharp contrast to the lineage leading to *H. sapiens*, *H. floresiensis* retains many primitive dental morphologies despite being dramatically reduced in tooth size (Fig 2).

H. floresiensis is ‘unique’ in four traits. Two of them (nos. #7 and #24) are the large relative size and the unique occlusal morphology of the P₃ that otherwise exhibits primitive morphologies (nos. #5, #8, and #9). The other two (nos. #13 and #17) primarily reflect their extremely short first molars. In view of the general trend of molar shortening during *Homo* evolution (Figs 5A and 6A), this highly derived condition in *H. floresiensis* may be described as “hyper-modern.”

H. floresiensis shares one characteristic feature of *H. sapiens*: the reduced cusp number on the M₁ and M₂ (from five to four: nos. #19 and #22). It should be noted that, however, this morphology was recently reported for some surface finds from Sangiran, which are tentatively included in the chronologically younger (Sangiran Upper) subgroup of early Javanese *H. erectus* [35]. Because this reduction is correlated with reduced molar size within modern human samples (see “M₁ cusp number” and “M₂ cusp number” above), it is possible that these “modern” morphologies are all associated with the crown shortening (nos. #13 and #17).

Overall, our analyses demonstrate that the dentition of *H. floresiensis* exhibits a unique combination of primitive traits on the canine-premolars and some modern or even hyper-modern traits on the molars.

As for the primitive dental characters seen in *H. floresiensis*, these are either those widely shared among different Early Pleistocene taxa (*H. habilis*, *H. ergaster*, Dmanisi *Homo*, early Javanese *H. erectus*) (nos. #1, #2, #4, #5, #8–10, #14, #15, #18, #21), or characters that appeared after *H. habilis* (nos. #3, #6, #11, #12, #16, #20, #23, #25, #26). Importantly, none of them exhibit very primitive conditions restricted to *H. habilis*. Thus, the dental morphology of *H. floresiensis* is derived relative to *H. habilis* *s. l.* and is comparable to post-*habilis* grade Early Pleistocene *Homo* or *H. erectus* *s. l.* Size-related morphological changes from the *H. habilis* condition, if any, do not explain the observed resemblance between *H. erectus* *s. l.* and *H. floresiensis* because their tooth sizes greatly differ from each other (Fig 2).

It has been claimed that the brain size of *H. floresiensis* is far too small to be attributed to intraspecific dwarfism from *H. erectus*, but recent studies showed that the decrease of human brain size associated with body size reduction [25] as well as the decrease of relative brain size

in insular primates [95] could be substantial. Some researchers found affinities with earlier African hominins in the mandibles and other skeletal elements of *H. floresiensis* [14–19], but these remain highly controversial [2,20]. Now, the evidence from skull [2,3] and teeth (this study), the most diagnostic elements in evolutionary systematics of the genus *Homo*, converge on the same conclusion. Combined with other evidence such as geographic proximity and a report that the earliest evidence for hominins on Flores (~1.0 million years ago) [26] does not exceed the oldest record for *H. erectus* in Java (≥ 1.2 million years ago) [31,32], we suggest that *H. floresiensis* evolved from early Javanese *H. erectus* or a related form from the ancient Sundaland, whose absolute brain size was about twice as large [25]. *H. floresiensis* is not evidence for unexpectedly early hominin dispersal into Asia [14–19], but is more likely an example of considerably greater flexibility in hominin physical evolution as originally proposed [1,2,20,21].

Finally, the reduced first molar of *H. floresiensis* is of interest. The first molar is one of the most invariant human teeth [96] and its size and morphology have been relatively conservative in hominin dental evolution [56], but this is the tooth that is most markedly shortened in the dentition of *H. floresiensis* (Fig 2). The reason why *H. floresiensis* experienced such a unique evolution is unclear. It is often supposed that dietary changes and food-processing practices that decrease chewing stress were the prime movers of the molar size reduction in the Pleistocene *Homo* [56,91,97,98]. Was this also the case for the first molar reduction in *H. floresiensis*? This hypothesis [9] may not be unrealistic in view of their relatively small facial skeleton [2,9], and a recent biomechanical study that concluded that their mandibles (LB1 and LB6/1) did not recruit masticatory forces on the order of what is utilized by, at least, South African australopiths [9]. However, evidence for advanced food-processing is currently not recognized at least in their simple stone technology [99], and the diets of *H. floresiensis* still remain to be studied [100]. Further archaeological and other research programs are needed to address this interesting question.

Conclusions

Our comprehensive comparative analyses of the teeth of *H. floresiensis* indicated that they are primitive relative to *H. sapiens* in displaying a low C₁ distal shoulder, P³ and P⁴ transverse crests, a well-developed P⁴ lingual crown, a MD long and asymmetric P₃ crown, a P₃ buccal basal enamel swelling (cingulum), a bifurcated P₃ root, a P₄ transverse crest, a M₁ mid-trigonid crest, and equivalent M₁ and M₂ sizes. The abundance of such primitive features contradicts the claim that *H. floresiensis* is not a new species but belongs to *H. sapiens* [23].

H. floresiensis share a number of dental characteristics with Early Pleistocene *Homo*, but none of them exhibit very primitive conditions restricted to *H. habilis sensu lato* (here defined as East African *Homo* specimens earlier than 1.75 million years ago). Instead, many of these primitive features are derived features that *H. floresiensis* shares with one or more post-*habilis* grade Early Pleistocene *Homo* from East Africa (*H. ergaster*), Java (early Javanese *H. erectus*), and Georgia (Dmanisi *Homo*). Such features include the occasional absence of a P³ buccal groove, a distally positioned P₃ lingual cusp, a more circular P₄ crown, the presence of a P₄ transverse crest, non-parallelgram M² crown shape, a MD short M₂ crown, a M₁ mid-trigonid crest, equivalent M₁ and M₂ sizes, and a moderately wide alveolar arcade. Therefore, dental morphology does not support the previous claim that *H. floresiensis* evolved from a form of hominin more primitive than *H. erectus*, such as *H. habilis* or *Australopithecus* [14–19].

The analyses of the crown contours of the six premolars and molars indicated that *H. floresiensis* is more similar to early Javanese *H. erectus* rather than to African *H. ergaster* or *H. habilis*. Although more detailed comparisons with Dmanisi *Homo* have yet to be conducted, the above results give additional, strong support to the hypothesis that *H. floresiensis* evolved from

an early Javanese *H. erectus* population or a related form from the ancient Sundaland with substantial body and brain size dwarfism [1,2,20,25]. There are also several unique dental features in *H. floresiensis* (P_3 morphology, extremely short M^1 and M_1 , and generally primitive canine-premolar vs. progressive molar morphologies) whose functional significance remains to be investigated.

Supporting Information

S1 Fig. Examples of the “isolated” dental casts used for the present study.
(TIF)

S2 Fig. The system used for photography of the dental specimens for crown counter extraction. The photographic system (A) and the specimen table (B). A 100 mm macro lens was set to a Canon D40 digital camera to minimize the parallax effect. For ease and accuracy in orienting the teeth, a special camera stand equipped with a horizontally movable turning table was used: Each dental cast was placed on the table using modeling clay, and the cervical plane was determined by turning the table, which was then moved horizontally so that the tooth was placed immediately below the camera lens. For the calibration in a later step, a millimeter scale was inserted to each photograph at the level of the deepest point on the occlusal grooves, using a leveling device to control the scale’s horizontal orientation. As far as possible, the background of the dental cast was made dark by putting black sticky tapes.
(TIF)

S3 Fig. Steps of dental calculus elimination and crown contour extraction for the three LB1 molars. Calculus was identified (red) (A), and removed virtually (B) in the micro-CT imagery. Calculus was clearly distinguishable from the enamel as parts with lesser CT values, as seen in horizontal CT sections (C). A digital photographic image of the high-quality plaster cast was prepared for each tooth, and its background was removed semi-automatically using an image-processing software (D). Then, the calculus was deleted by superimposing the image of B onto D, and worn parts of the tooth were reconstructed with reference to the 3D topography of the plaster cast (blue) to prepare the final image for contour extraction (E).
(TIF)

S1 Table. Comparative Early Pleistocene *Homo* samples.
(PDF)

S2 Table. Comparative *Homo sapiens* sample.
(PDF)

S3 Table. Results of the non-metric and linear metric comparisons.
(PDF)

S4 Table. Linear metric and non-metric data used in this study.
(XLSX)

S1 Text. Additional notes on the non-metric and linear metric comparisons.
(PDF)

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Author Contributions

Conceived and designed the experiments: YK. Performed the experiments: YK. Analyzed the data: YK. Contributed reagents/materials/analysis tools: YK RTK TS EWS J RDA. Wrote the paper: YK RTK TS EWS J RDA.

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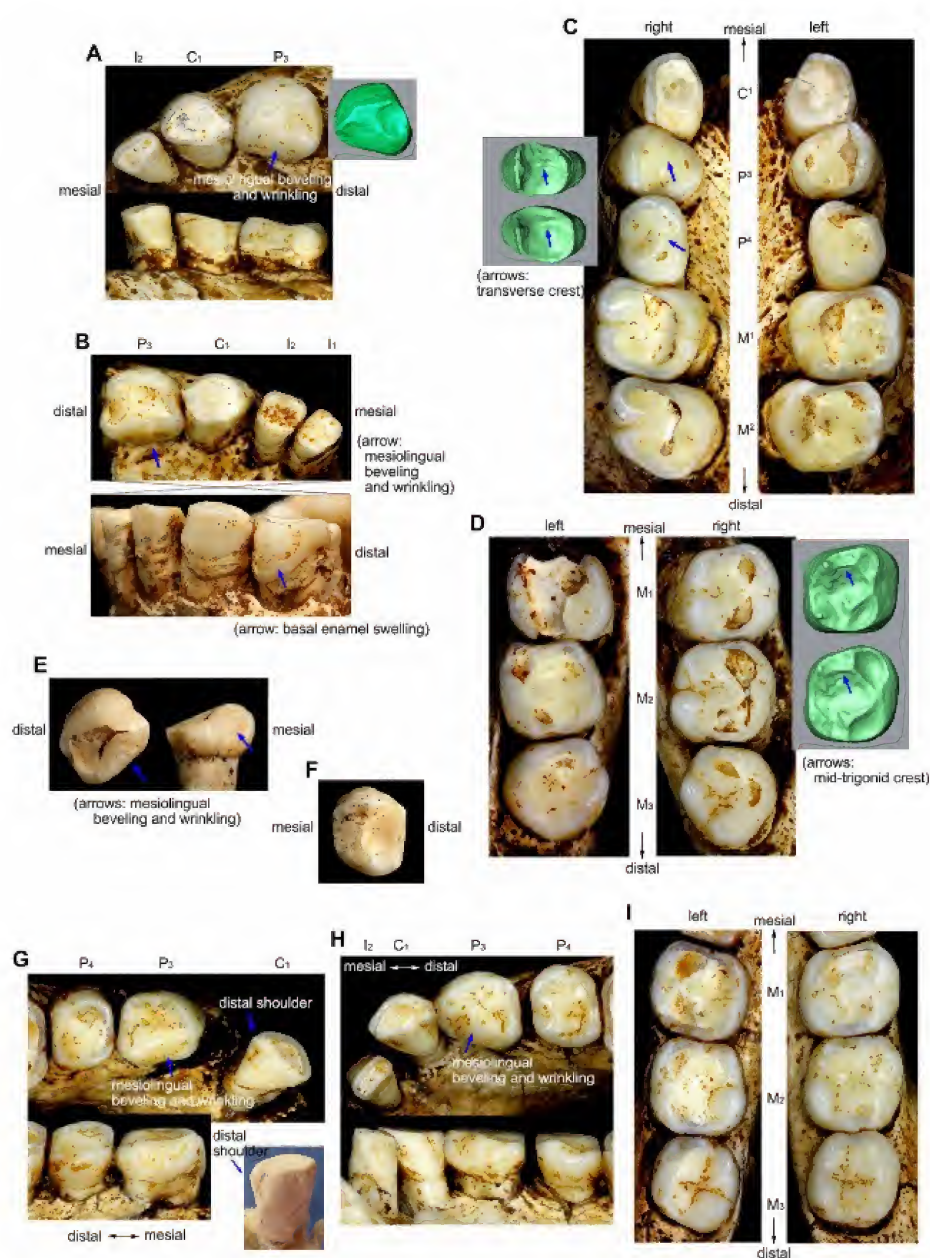


Fig 1. Teeth of *Homo floresiensis*. Right (A) and left (B) anterior dentitions of the LB1 mandible. (C) Maxillary dentition of LB1 with EDJ surface images for the right P³ and P⁴. (D) Mandibular molars of LB1. (E) Occlusal (left) and lingual (right) views of the LB2/2 left P₃. (F) Occlusal view of the LB15/1 right P₄. Left (G) and right (H) anterior dentitions of the LB6/1 mandible with a photograph of a cast of its left C₁ (with blue background). (I) Mandibular molars of LB6/1. See ref. [24] for LB 15/2 (I¹) and LB6/14 (I₁).

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morphological condition in earliest *Homo*. The early Javanese *H. erectus* sample can be further divided into two chronological subsamples: 'Sangiran Lower' (those from the upper Sangiran and the lowest Bapang Formations dated to ≥ 1.2 –1.0 Ma) and 'Sangiran Upper' (those from the middle-lower part of the Bapang Formation dated to 1.0–0.8 Ma) (chronology based on [31], but see [32]). The postcanine tooth crowns are distinctly reduced from the former to the latter [33–35]; Previous studies demonstrated that the Sangiran Lower sample is derived compared to *H. habilis* in cranial, mandibular, and dental morphology, and can be called a primitive form of *H. erectus* [33,36–38]. Our 'East Asian Middle Pleistocene archaic *Homo*' sample is different from traditional Middle Pleistocene Chinese *H. erectus* (e.g., [39]); We pooled a diverse taxa including *H. erectus* and post-*erectus* grade *Homo* for the present comparison as a broad reference sample for archaic dental morphology of the post-Early Pleistocene period in eastern Asia.

Our *H. sapiens* sample is from Africa, Europe, Asia, and Oceania, with particular emphasis on prehistoric individuals from Southeast Asia including Flores as well as modern small-bodied populations (Philippine Negrito, Andaman, African Pygmy, Bushman) (S2 Table). This choice was made to reflect species-wide variation of *H. sapiens*, and to respond to the claim that Liang Bua *H. floresiensis* resembles a local short-statured Australomelanesian population [23]. Sexes were pooled due to general difficulties in sex assignment for variously fragmentary hominin fossils.

Materials

We analyzed morphology of the permanent teeth. Specimens with severe wear were excluded from the metric analyses. Metric and non-metric data were obtained from the original specimens, excellent-quality plaster casts, or literature (S1 Table). For all the *H. floresiensis*, early Javanese *H. erectus*, and *H. sapiens* specimens, "isolated" plaster casts were prepared by Y.K. with partial assistance from Hisao Baba (S1 Fig). Silicone was used for molding the original specimens and the resulting plaster cast was then cut with a saw to isolate individual teeth. Such isolated casts can be measured more easily and accurately than when the original specimens are still housed in the jaw bones making collecting accurate linear measurement data more difficult. Thus, we used these isolated casts for linear measurement and crown contour extraction. Non-isolated, high-quality plaster casts were used for most of the *H. habilis* and *H. ergaster* specimens. These were prepared by Gen Suwa with reported dimensional accuracies within ± 0.1 mm [40].

Measurement

We used a digital sliding caliper (Mitutoyo Co.) to measure mesiodistal (MD) and buccolingual (BL) crown diameters with allowance for wear, following the methods described in ref. [41]. Values from the right and left sides were averaged for the fossil specimens, while the data for *H. sapiens* (casts from the 490 individuals) were available only from the better-preserved and/or less-worn side due to limitation of the time available for molding. The MD and BL measurements for a small number of African and Georgian fossil *Homo* and most of the Zhoukoudian as well as Xujiayao specimens were taken from the literature [41–46]. The remaining metric data were collected directly by Y.K.

Size-adjusted PCAs

We performed principal component analyses (PCAs) based on size-adjusted MD and BL crown diameters. Because LB1 lacks the M^3 and P_4 , the maxillary analysis included P^3 , P^4 , M^1 , and M^2 , and the mandibular analysis P_3 , M_1 , M_2 , and M_3 . The size-adjustment was done by

dividing each of the MD and BL diameters by 'crown size factor', which was calculated as square root of the average crown area for each individual (average of the 'MD x BL' for all the four teeth included for each PCA). Group means for *H. floresiensis* (LB1, LB6/1) and nine chrono-regional subsamples of *H. sapiens* (prehistoric Southeast Asian, Philippine Negrito, New Guinea, Australia/Tasmania Aborigine, modern Indonesian, Bushman, African Pygmy, East African, and German) were used to compute variance-covariance matrices. PC scores for a small number of the available Early Pleistocene *Homo* individuals were also calculated using the equations derived from the samples of *H. sapiens* and *H. floresiensis*.

Elliptic Fourier Analysis (EFA)

Occlusal crown contours of maxillary molars (M^1 and M^2) and mandibular premolars and molars (P_3 , P_4 , M_1 , and M_2) were analyzed by normalized (size-standardized) EFA (elliptic Fourier analysis) [47,48], a method that does not require homologous landmarks and thus is suitable for moderately worn tooth crowns. Two or more *H. floresiensis* individuals are available for the four mandibular teeth. The right P^3 and P^4 of LB1 are relatively unworn but they were excluded from this analysis. The mesiobuccal corner of the P^3 , one of the most diagnostic point for this tooth in *Homo* [49], has been lost by the contact with the C^1 ; The orientation of P^4 is difficult due to the damage on its distal cervical line (See Fig 1C in [24]). The M^2 s of LB1 are markedly asymmetrical [24]. In consideration of this observation, both sides were included for *H. floresiensis* if the wear is not very severe (M^1 and M^2 of LB1, and P_3 , M_1 , and M_2 of LB6). The contours of the comparative specimens were taken from the better-preserved side. Comparisons are made on the images from the right teeth or horizontally flipped images of the left teeth. The crown contour of each tooth is captured by digital photography with a dental cast placed so that its cervical line is perpendicular to the axis of the camera lens [50–52]. Fluctuations of the cervical lines are ignored [40]. For example, the buccal cervical lines of the *H. floresiensis* P_3 s deviate considerably toward their root apices (Fig 1B). The orientations of these teeth are defined without referring to this buccal part of the line.

A special system was used to minimize errors associated with photography (parallax effect, orientation of the tooth and scale, etc.), as addressed in S2 Fig. Images were uploaded into Canvas X software (ACD Systems) and backgrounds were removed using a semi-automated process. In worn teeth the original occlusal crown contour was reconstructed on the digital image with reference to each dental cast (S3 Fig). The thick dental calculus deposits on the right M^1 , M_1 and M_2 of LB1 were cleaned virtually on the micro-CT imagery (S3A and S3B Fig). Before calculating normalized Elliptical Fourier descriptors (EFDs), each tooth crown was aligned along its MD axis. Capturing of crown contours from the digital images, obtaining EFDs, and PCA of the normalized EFDs were conducted using the software SHAPE 1.3 [53]. Between-group differences in the PC scores were tested by Mann-Whitney U Test with and without Bonferroni correction. The Bonferroni correction is a method used to avoid problems with Type I errors in multiple comparisons. In this method, the statistical significance level is adjusted simply by being divided by the number of hypotheses being tested. This correction becomes very conservative when the number of comparisons is large and the tests are not independent [54]. This is probably the case for the present PCAs, because there may be some correlations between the outlines of different teeth (e.g., among the premolars or molars), and the number of the hypotheses is as many as 24.

Non-metric and linear metric comparisons

In order to examine dental traits that are potentially useful to distinguish earlier and later *Homo* but were not captured by the above EFAs, we made another set of comparative analyses

based on observed trait frequency (presence/absence) and linear metric data. The traits observed are listed in S3 Table. These were selected with reference to previous studies [33,40,43,45,49,50,52,55–69] and our own preliminary observations, and were restricted by the preservation of the *H. floresiensis* materials. Fisher's exact test, a method usually used when dealing with sample sizes, was employed for two-sample comparisons in frequency data.

Results

Crown size

We first analyzed tooth size based on crown length (MD) and breadth (LL or BL) data (Fig 2). Many of the *H. floresiensis* teeth are within the smaller range of variation exhibited by the global *H. sapiens* sample. Remarkable deviations from this general trend are disproportionately long P₃s as well as short M¹ and M₁ in *H. floresiensis*.

This unique tooth size proportion was also confirmed by the following multivariate analyses. Fig 3 and Table 1 are the results of principal component analyses based on size-adjusted MD and BL data. The generated PC1 and PC2 cumulatively explain 75% (maxilla) or 91% (mandible) of the total variation. These PCs show no (PC1 and PC2 for the maxillary analysis,

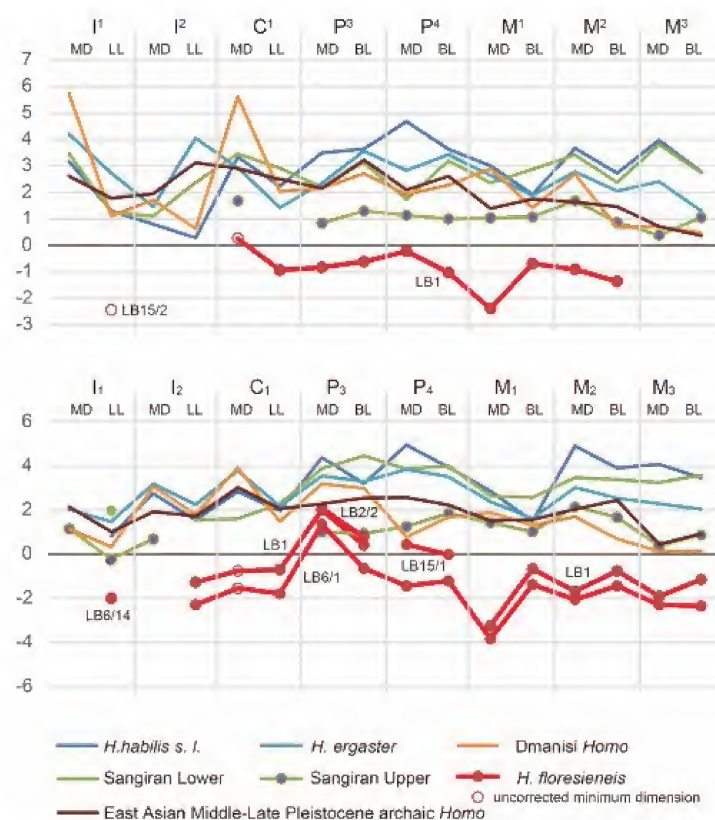


Fig 2. Z-scores for the tooth crown length (MD) and breadth (LL or BL) for *H. floresiensis* and other fossil *Homo* groups as compared to the global *H. sapiens* sample. Z-scores are relative deviations from the *H. sapiens* means in units of standard deviation. Note that the Dmanisi *Homo* sample here is based on the two smaller individuals. Due to severe tooth wear the largest individual (D4500/2600) I was excluded [27].

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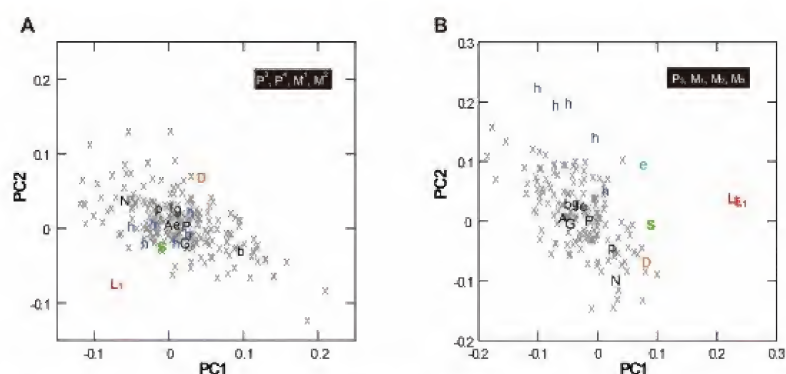


Fig 3. Results of the PCAs based on size-adjusted MD and BL crown diameters. Analyses of the maxillary (A) and mandibular (B) teeth. Black letters = *H. sapiens* subsample means (P = prehistoric Southeast Asia, N = Philippine Negrito, G = New Guinea, A = Australia/Tasmania Aborigine, I = modern Indonesian, b = Bushman, p = African Pygmy, e = East African, g = German); Gray crosses = *H. sapiens* individuals; Colored letters = archaic *Homo* individuals (L₁ = LB1, L₆ = LB6/1, S = early Javanese *H. erectus* [Sangiran 4, 22], D = Dmanisi [D2282/211, 2700/2735], e = *H. ergaster* [KNM-ER 992], h = *H. habilis* [L894-1; Omo75-14G; KNM-ER 1590, 1802, 1813, 60000; OH 13, 16, 39]).

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and PC1 for the mandibular analysis) or only slight (PC2 for the mandibular analysis) correlations with the 'crown size factor' (Table 1), and thus reflect crown shape variations that are mostly independent from crown size. In both analyses, the PC scores of the *H. floresiensis* teeth occupy unique positions relative to the *H. sapiens* individuals.

The Early Pleistocene *Homo* individuals, which were projected onto the PC spaces using the above variance-covariance matrices, occupy a space between *H. floresiensis* and *H. sapiens* in the analysis of the mandibular teeth, suggesting that the pattern observed in *H. floresiensis* involves primitive morphology for the genus *Homo*. Such a trend is, however, not evident in the analysis of the maxillary teeth. In both analyses, the early Javanese *H. erectus* individuals (Sangiran 4 for the maxillary teeth and Sangiran 22 for the mandibular teeth) are comparatively close to the positions of *H. floresiensis*.

Table 1. Component loadings and other results of the group-mean PCA based on size-adjusted crown diameters.

Variables	Maxilla		Mandible	
	PC1	PC2	PC1	PC2
P1 MD	-0.58	-0.05	0.97	0.18
P1 BL	-0.94	0.07	0.89	-0.38
P2 MD	-0.76	-0.46		
P2 BL	-0.74	0.61		
M1 MD	0.76	0.53	-0.93	-0.29
M1 BL	-0.22	-0.63	0.70	-0.44
M2 MD	0.67	-0.65	-0.64	-0.22
M2 BL	0.31	0.43	0.75	-0.16
M3 MD			-0.80	0.59
M3 BL			-0.34	0.19
Proportion of the variance (%)	49	26	79	12
Cumulative proportion (%)	49	75	79	91
Pearson's <i>r</i> with the 'crown size factor' ^a	-0.05	-0.06	-0.07	0.26

^aCorrelation coefficient based on the sample of the *H. sapiens* individuals.

doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0141614.t001

Crown contour

Because wear obscures much of the occlusal surface morphology of the *H. floresiensis* teeth, we analyzed the occlusal crown contours of six teeth (P_3 , P_4 , M^1 , M^2 , M_1 , and M_2) by normalized (size-adjusted) Elliptic Fourier Analysis (EFA) combined with PCA. In consideration of the previous claim that the Liang Bua Pleistocene hominins resemble a local short-statured Australo-Melanesian population [23], the *H. sapiens* sample used here includes prehistoric people with Australo-Melanesian affinities sampled from Flores, Java, Malaysia, and Vietnam [70], as well as Aboriginal Australians, Papuans, Philippine Negritos, and African Pygmies ($N = 54$ [P_3], 41 [P_4], 106 [M^1], 112 [M^2], 71 [M_1], 105 [M_2]; S2 Table). Fossil *Homo* samples from Africa (*H. habilis* and *H. ergaster*) and Java (early *H. erectus*) were included (S1 Table). Within the *H. sapiens* sample, each PC1 shows a weak correlation with measured crown area (Pearson's correlation coefficients were -0.17 [P_3], 0.22 [P_4], -0.13 [M^1], -0.26 [M^2], 0.15 [M_1], and 0.11 [M_2]; M^2 was the only tooth that reached statistical significance at the α level of 0.05), indicating that the size-adjustment was effective for these analyses. In all six analyses the first two PCs (PC1 and PC2) cumulatively explain 71–85%, and the next two (PC3 and PC4) 7–15% of the total variations (see Figs 4, 5 and 6 for the value for each PC). These four PCs are considered below.

Because the two chronological samples of early Javanese *H. erectus* (Sangiran Lower and Sangiran Upper) are essentially similar to each other in all the PCs, they were pooled for the following statistical analyses. In the PC scores plotted in Figs 4, 5 and 6, the pooled Early Pleistocene fossil *Homo* sample (*H. habilis*, *H. ergaster*, and early Javanese *H. erectus*) differ significantly from *H. sapiens* in eight out of the twenty-four PCs generated from the six EFAs (PC1 and PC2 for P_3 , PC3 for M^1 , PC1 and PC4 for M^2 , PC1 and PC3 for M_2 ; $P < 0.05$, Mann-Whitney U Test with Bonferroni correction). In particular, PC1 and PC2 for P_3 in combination separate the modern and the Early Pleistocene samples nearly completely. Two other PCs also differ significantly if Bonferroni correction is not made (PC2 for P_4 , PC3 for M_1). Thus, these eight (with Bonferroni correction) or ten (without Bonferroni correction) PCs reflect primitive features for the genus *Homo*. Figs 4, 5 and 6 shows that *H. floresiensis* shares all of these primitive features except for PC1 of M_1 . In PC 1 of M_1 as well as PC1 and PC2 for M^1 , *H. floresiensis* is distinct from both modern and fossil *Homo* (Figs 5A and 6A). These primarily reflect the short MD diameters of the first molars (Fig 2). In the *H. sapiens* sample, there is no evidence that smaller first molars approach the short configuration similar to *H. floresiensis* (Fig 7B and 7C). This further highlights the uniqueness of the latter.

When the PC score for the early Javanese *H. erectus* and the *H. habilis* samples are compared to each other, the former differs significantly from the latter in having MD short and BL wide M_1 (PC1) and M_2 (PC1) [62,71], and a BL symmetric M^2 (PC2) [72] ($P < 0.05$, Mann-Whitney U Test with Bonferroni correction). A non-triangular P_4 (PC3) [52], and a MD short (PC1) and BL symmetric (PC2) M^1 are also added to the above list if Bonferroni corrections are not made. In all of these six distinguishing characters (Fig 8), the Liang Bua Pleistocene teeth are similar (P_4 , M^2 and M_2) or closer (M^1 and M_1) to early Javanese *H. erectus* but are remote from *H. habilis* (Fig 9). Thus, the postcanine crown contours of *H. floresiensis* are derived relative to *H. habilis* and more similar to early Javanese *H. erectus* in many aspects.

Other morphological traits

Twenty morphological characters of individual teeth (nos. 1–20) were assessed based on presence/absence with metric criteria when applicable, and three characters of the dentition (nos. 21–23) were evaluated based on linear metric data. Among these 23 traits listed in S3 Table, 16 were found to be of some use to evaluate dental morphological status of *H. floresiensis*. These

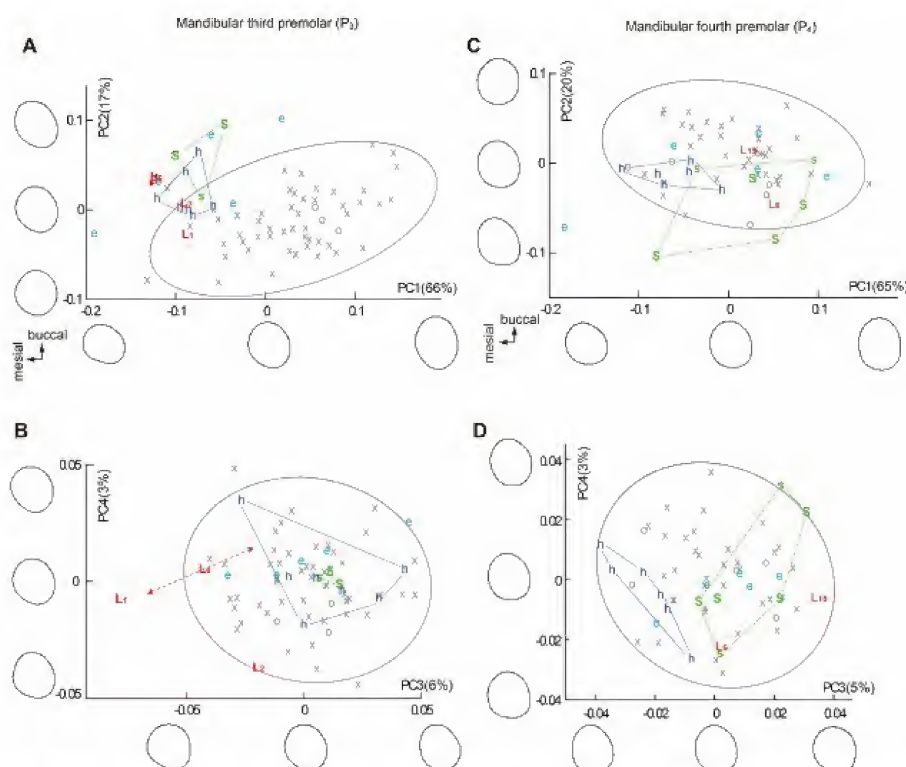


Fig 4. Plots of PC scores derived from the normalized Elliptic Fourier Analyses (EFAs) on the crown contours (mandibular premolars). (A) and (B) Mandibular first premolar. (C) and (D) Mandibular second premolar. Symbol and color codes: gray symbols = *H. sapiens* (crosses = Southeast Asia/Melanesia/Australia, circles = African Pygmy); colored letters = fossil *Homo* (L_1 = LB1, L_2 = LB2/2, L_3 = LB6/1, L_{15} = LB15/1, S = early Javanese *H. erectus* (Sangiran Lower), s = early Javanese *H. erectus* (Sangiran Upper), D = Dmanisi, e = *H. ergaster*, h = *H. habilis*). The right and left teeth are included for *H. floresiensis* when available and they are indicated by the dashed line with arrow heads. The crown outlines for -2 SD, 0, and +2 SD, 95% confidence ellipses for the *H. sapiens* sample, and ranges for *H. erectus* and *H. habilis* samples are shown. Proportion of the variance explained by each PC is in the parentheses.

doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0141614.g004

16 characters are reported in Table 2 and described below. The rest of the results are available in S3 Table and S1 Text. Differences in the frequency data were tested between the *H. habilis* and other samples, and between the *H. sapiens* and other samples (Table 2). Because the results showed no differences between the crown contours of the older and younger early Javanese *H. erectus* specimens, they were pooled for the statistical tests in Table 2.

C_1 distal shoulder height (no. 1 in Table 2). Canines of *H. sapiens* often exhibit an elevated distal shoulder that gives an incisor-like appearance to its crown. We metrically examined this character using the following index: distal shoulder height / labiolingual (LL) crown diameter. The height is the minimum distance between the distal cervical line and the distoincisor corner of the crown.

The resulting index values were: 38% (OH 7: *H. habilis*); 50% (Sangiran 22) and 57% (Sangiran 7–58) (early Javanese *H. erectus*); 48% (*Sinanthropus* 70: Chinese *H. erectus*); and the modern human specimens range between 54% and 110% with the mean value being 78.4% ($N = 109$). When we categorized each specimen as having a ‘low’ or ‘high’ distal shoulder with the cut-off point of the index value set at 57.5, all three Early Pleistocene *Homo C₁s* (as well as the Middle Pleistocene Chinese *H. erectus C₁*) were categorized as ‘low’ whereas only three out

Saturday, June 20, 2015

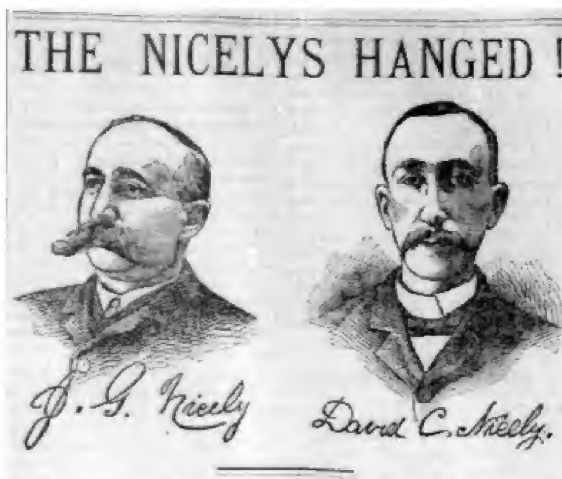
Portraits of the Nicely Brothers.

After a recent post about the Nicely Brothers, who were hanged for the coldblooded murder of Herman Umberger in Jennerstown, Pennsylvania in 1889, I was contacted by Rick Carbone who told me he had some old photographs of the Nicelys. Rick was kind enough to share these portraits of Josiah G. "Joseph" Nicely and David C. Nicely:



Josiah G. "Joseph" Nicely David C. Nicely

It was common at the time, to sell photographs, mounted on card stock, as souvenirs of sensational murders. These portraits were produced in Indiana, Pennsylvania, near the site of the Umberger murder. They were obviously the models for the drawings below, published in the *Somerset Herald* at the time of the hangings - it is interesting to note that the artist did not exaggerate Joe's mustache.



More on the Nicelys here: [The Nicely Brothers](#).
More on murder portraits here: [Souvenirs of Murder](#).

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Young girl 'possessed by the devil'

16:15 PM

news.com.au



• October 7th 2015

This is the shocking footage of a young girl who apparently became possessed by the devil after playing with a Ouija board using a mobile phone app.

Locals believe the young woman, identified as 18-year-old Patricia Quispe, from Chosica, in the Lima province of Peru, was possessed by evil spirits after using a mobile

Shocking footage has emerged of a young girl acting possessed by the devil after playing with a Ouija board mobile phone app.

phone version of the board game.

According to friends, who spoke to local media, she'd been spending time with them at the weekend when they decided for a bit of fun to try and communicate with the spirit world.

After she went home, her parents noticed she seemed to be unwell and eventually called an ambulance when they saw her convulsing and foaming around the mouth.

Trying to find out if she had been taking drugs or eaten something strange, they contacted the friends who told them about the Ouija board.



Source: australscope

In a video, medics can be seen trying to restrain the young girl who is convulsing violently and struggling as she shouts "666" followed by "let me go, let me go".

In another segment she can be heard shouting: "Please give me my phone" and "Ma, these doctors don't know what they're doing, take me home."

Hospital horror ... This young girl apparently became possessed by the devil after playing with a Ouija board using a mobile phone app. Picture: Australscope

Those who witnessed the incident said they had no doubt that she had been possessed by satanic spirits, saying her personality had changed and she had started speaking in a

different voice as she lost control of her body.

Medics confirmed that the young woman seemed to be extremely strong and it was difficult to control her.

They said that she had been committed to a psychiatric ward as they tried to find out more about what was causing her strange behaviour.

Comments on this story

- **Mel** *Posted at 7:41 PM October 07, 2015*

I recommend avoiding all this sort of stuff. Especially for those with weak minds. The greatest trick the devil ever pulled, was convincing the world he does not exist.

Comment 1 of 8

- **Hermit of NSW** *Posted at 7:32 PM October 07, 2015*

Her head didn't spin around, no green vomit, nothing. Disappointed.

Comment 2 of 8

- **get real** *Posted at 5:02 PM October 07, 2015*

Possessed by satanic spirits what a crock. Superstitious rubbish.

Comment 3 of 8

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Doctors say a Central Florida laborer impaled by a piece of rebar from a concrete block is lucky to be alive after the object narrowly missed his vital organs.

Casey Zawojski, 20, was painting an Ocala home earlier this week when he fell backward off a ladder, landing on a partially constructed pillar. The rebar pierced his lower back.

A pastor who was putting up drywall nearby heard the man's screams and rushed to his aid. Dax Romine grabbed his electric power saw and cut the rebar so Zawojski would not be hanging from it.

The Ocala Star-Banner reports a piece of the victim's shirt also went into the cavity and kept the wound from bleeding.

Zawojski suffered a collapsed lung and damage to several ribs, but was sitting up in a wheelchair Friday and said he was feeling better.

The pastor said he hadn't planned on bringing his tools to that site because he had another job that day, but at the last minute threw them in his car.

"I really honestly believe that God provided that piece of tool in this case," Romine said.

Zawojski said he knew he'd hit something when he fell because he tried to get up and couldn't move. But he said his first instinct was to remain calm and stay awake.

"All kinds of thoughts were going through my mind. I wanted to be alive, I wanted to see my family again," he said.

Zawojski said he also prayed Romine would "cut as fast as he could so it could be over with."

His uncle Richard Maitha said the rebar passed through his chest and stopped close to his neck, and barely missed his heart.

A surgeon moved skin and muscles aside so the rebar would come out easily when it was removed.

The doctor said the surgery to remove the rebar, which was about an inch around and 10 to 12-inches long, lasted about two hours.

The victim was sitting up in a wheelchair Friday and said he was already feeling much better.

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Experts Agree: Parrot-Pigeon "Hybrids" Probably Just Dyed Pigeons

gothamist.com

by Jen Carlson in Arts & Entertainment on Mar 13, 2014 10:15 am



Experts agree: this is not a magical pigeon-parrot hybrid. (Photo by bytegirl's flickr) Experts agree: this is not a magical pigeon-parrot hybrid. (Photo by bytegirl's flickr)

Last weekend some mysterious pigeon-parrot hybrids were spotted in Queens, but experts now tell us these are just your garden variety rock pigeons with some colorful dye applied. Next they'll tell us this *isn't* a photo of Anthony Weiner astride a pegasus! Below are theories and thoughts from a birder, a pigeon fancier, and the NYC Audubon.

New York City birder Yojimbot tells us the pigeon "has been dyed... impossible to say with what but I'm guessing some vegetable based dye, because anything else would affect the flight of the bird. I've heard of similar

things in Europe and India for religious ceremonies."

Onorio Catenacci, a pigeon fancier from Michigan, tells us the process is painless: "I've seen pigeons with dyed feathers before; it doesn't hurt the birds at all any more than a human being dyeing his or her hair would hurt them. The feathers will stay dyed until the bird molts them." As to why someone would dye a pigeon's feathers—"it might be that they just like the way the dyes look or it may be that they're trying to make their pigeons easier to identify from the ground. There are lots of pigeons that are around in colors that occur naturally; if you dye a pigeon's feathers, you can easily tell which bird is yours from the ground (with field glasses of course)."

Tod Winston at the NYC Audubon agrees the pigeons were dyed, but believes the process is harmful to the pigeons and any predators that may get a taste: "These are pigeons that have had some of their feathers dyed or painted. Though they are pretty, it is most likely not good for the birds; birds preen their feathers and will likely ingest the paint (which might be toxic) when they do so. The paint will also make the pigeons more obvious to predators—and if they are killed and eaten by predators such as our native red-tailed hawks, the hawks will themselves ingest the paint and possibly be harmed by it."

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PROSSER, Wash. - A 52-year-old Prosser man was listed in stable condition at a Seattle hospital Monday after his dog dragged a burning blanket out of his kennel and ignited the man's home.

Bob Bliss was taken to Harborview Medical Center on Saturday after suffering smoke inhalation and second-degree burns to his face, said emergency officials.

Benton County Sheriff's deputies were dispatched at 4:30 a.m. to the Bliss home at 835 Old Inland Empire Road.

A blanket next to a space heater in the dog kennel caught fire and the dog pulled it out too close to the home, said deputies.

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QUEST OF DEADLY MONSTER EXPLORER'S JUNGLE ADVENTURE

Mr. Richard Hamilton, the young explorer and film producer, is going into the jungle to search for the man-killing Nandi bear.

For a month he will live in the unexplored regions of the Nandi Forest, Upper Kenya, exposed to the lurking dangers of tigers and snakes. These, however, are not

THE WORST PERILS.

The jungle is supposed to be haunted by spooks, and all who enter it are believed to be doomed.

It is here, however, that the Nandi bear is thought to exist. Guarded by the fear which keeps the natives far from its home, no one has yet seen this animal. But footprints have been observed by white hunters, who are unable to account for their strange shape.

The prints, they said, were larger than those of a lion, and like those of the

GREAT CAT FAMILY.

Natives have been killed at the edge of the jungle by some animal as big as a polar bear, which has dropped on them from the trees above.

Mr. Hamilton will leave by air from Croydon bound for Kitale, where he will pick up two white hunters, who will accompany him on the 200-mile trek to the Nandi country.

"I am fascinated by the story of this strange monster," he added, "and that is what has compelled me to hunt for it."

Recent Homicides—The Murder Mania.

The community is at present in the midst of a series of shocking murders which seem at undefined intervals to sweep over the face of our civilization, darkening it with a tinge of blood. Homicide appears for a while to be epidemic, and men talk gallows-philosophy with a tinge of ferocity in sentiment which indicates all the more how the blood-spilling mania seizes mankind in some form or other, whether under the form of murder or killing for murder. Two days ago a wretch named Botts expiated the shooting of "Pet" Halsted, in Newark—moving cause, jealousy. In California a woman, Mrs. Fahr, is under sentence for killing a man who was about to return to a long-neglected, much-injured wife; jealousy was the cause here, too. Stokes killed Fisk—cause, jealousy indirectly; not Stokes' but Fisk's jealousy. Two days ago, within the very hour that the murderer Botts was hurried out of the world, a girl of eighteen—a Mrs. Hyde—shot her seducer dead. Yesterday, in front of St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church, a German, named Henry Heppner, deliberately shot and killed his own son, and afterwards attempted suicide. And so the cases move out into ghastly prominence, with some hellish distortion of the divine passion, love, at their root. If gallows medicine is the only specific for this epidemic of murder, why is it so rarely administered? At the time that the crimes surge in upon society each murderer and murderess is hanged in imagination, and there only. When the homicide fever passes away for a while the murder virus seems to leave the public mind too, and the criminal is forgotten with the crime. The jealousy murders, or those founded on sentiment, no matter how morbid, flabby or maudlin, always find their apologists among decent people, who never saw the gashed, riddled or jellied corpse of the victim. These people illustrate the mania by applause of the murder.

The theory of a murder mania is true also of the more brutal classes of the crime, such as the car-bomb murder, or those that arise out of vulgar brawls in the dens of vice. Awakening unanimous condemnation at the time, they pass into oblivion, and the example of the law is frustrated. While in most of the murders which come to light the slayer is found at once or clearly traceable on account of the incidents of passion which were part of the murdered being's life, there is the class of murder which is the accompaniment of robbery. The failure to trace this class of criminal is a notorious and deplorable commentary on the efficiency of the police, whose sensibilities alone appear to be in no way quickened by the sudden increase of crime. The Rogers and Nathan murders are as much wrapped in mystery now as at the time of their committal, and the murder of the unfortunate Professor Panormo, a couple of nights ago, seems as if about to be sent to keep company with the other two mockeries of our system of detection of crime, as they all three shake our belief in the police as a protective or preventive force. There must be no effort spared to bring the assassins of Panormo to justice; but the ignorance, sloth and blundering of the Brooklyn police give us little hope of this result. As in the Rosenzweig case, some of the most important links in the chain of evidence have already been worked up by the press writers, and if the so-called detectives will only follow the trail public vengeance may yet be satisfied.

By

Christopher D. Shea

November 20, 2015 12:11 pm November 20, 2015 12:11 pm



*The skull of Winnipeg, the bear that inspired "Winnie-the-Pooh." Credit
Royal College of Surgeons*

LONDON — The skull of Winnipeg, the bear who inspired "Winnie-the-Pooh," has gone on display for the first time at the Hunterian Museum in London.

In the mid-1920s, A.A. Milne wrote his beloved children's classic "Winnie-the-Pooh," inspired by trips to the London Zoo with his son to see Winnipeg, a celebrity bear who was brought to the zoo during World War I. (Milne's son's own teddy bear was named Winnie, after the real-life animal.)

Winnipeg's body was donated to the Royal College of Surgeons' Odontological Museum when she died in the 1930s and has remained in the collection since. It survived a 1941

bombing that destroyed much of the collection.

In a phone interview the Hunterian's director, Sam Alberti, said that curators had recently conducted a review of their holdings to assess which works would be of particular interest for visitors. "It made us look with fresh eyes at the skull," he said.

The skull is on view in a display about the items added to the predominantly 18th-century collection during the 20th century. Mr. Alberti said that curators hoped that the well-known bear's skull would serve as an entry point into the collection for visitors who might not otherwise go to the Hunterian.

He also said that aside from its celebrity value, Winnipeg's skull offered a particularly interesting case study. "She lived with quite severe gum disease, you know, undoubtedly because of the honey on the sticky buns that she was being fed by the museum visitors out of love," he said.

Through the bear, he said, "We can have a look and see what happens to animals when their diet is, I'm sure, delicious, but utterly inappropriate."

Asked whether he thought the exhibition ran the risk of scaring children, he said: "We did think carefully about this because we didn't want the message to be, 'Come to the Hunterian Museum and see Winnie-the-Pooh.' No. It's a skull. I mean it's a very well-preserved skull, but nonetheless."

"It's a happy message," he added, "that Winnipeg, the bear who inspired Winnie-the-Pooh, has had this afterlife."

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Religion Meets Conspiracy Theories In Latest Episode Of USA Network's 'Dig'

Religion News Service | By Kimberly Winston

huffingtonpost.com

Religion Meets Conspiracy Theories In Latest Episode Of USA Network's 'Dig'

Posted: 04/13/2015 9:36 am EDT Updated: 04/13/2015 9:59 am EDT



Ronen Akerman/USA Network

(RNS)
Archaic prayers, hidden keys and secret religious orders — such are the elements of the latest episode of the USA Network's biblical conspiracy

action series "Dig."

Add in a modern re-enactment of one of the most harrowing stories in the Hebrew Bible, and the result is a swirling, baffling stew of religious themes and imagery.

This is your spoiler alert! Read on if you are up to date on "Dig" or a glutton for punishment.

"It's all about the End of Days, the Second Coming, Armageddon, the Rapture," Debbie (Lauren Ambrose) says in what is the clearest explanation by any character of what is going on in "Dig" to date. "In order to bring about the Second Coming, the Temple in Jerusalem needs to be rebuilt."

Here's a quick summary of some of the religion references in this week's episode:

Jehoshaphat

Gregory Donaldson, an inmate in a mental institution suffering from "Jerusalem syndrome" (see below), is seen writing this name in the dust of a windowsill.

In Hebrew, Jehoshaphat means "Yahweh judges." The Valley of Jehoshaphat is the place Yahweh — the unpronounceable Hebrew word for God — will gather the people and "sit to judge all the nations on every side." As if that weren't scary enough, the Valley of Jehoshaphat is sometimes called the "valley of destruction." The characters in "Dig" have already been to the field of Armageddon; if they end up in the Valley of Jehoshaphat, it's not going to be for a party.

Jerusalem syndrome is a real mental illness sparked by a heightened sense of religious excitement some tourists experience in the Holy Land. Sufferers say they hear voices, claim to be the Messiah or self-inflict crucifixion-style nail marks on their hands and feet. Jerusalem Syndrome may explain why Donaldson carved a strange symbol on his chest — a kind of T inside a box — that pops up repeatedly on the show.

"Order of Moriah"

Peter Connelly (Jason Isaacs) wants to know what's up with the secret "Order of Moriah." A big clue is that Mount Moriah is where the Bible says Solomon built the Jewish Temple — the one the apparent bad guys want to rebuild.

Today, Mount Moriah is better known as the Temple Mount, and it is topped not by a Jewish temple, but by the Al Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock, two of Islam's most sacred sites. It is the most hotly contested piece of land in the world.

More important, Mount Moriah is the site of the "Foundation Stone," the rock where Abraham tied his son Isaac in the biblical story of the binding of Isaac. Muslims believe the same stone is the one from which the Prophet Muhammad ascended to heaven.

"Then he withheld Abraham's hand"

"God commanded Abraham to sacrifice Isaac to teach him obedience," says a "Dig" character known as the Essene. "But then he withheld Abraham's hand to teach him about love."

In the Genesis story, God asks Abraham to make a "burnt offering" of his son at Mount Moriah. Abraham ties Isaac to the altar before he is stopped by an angel who says, "Now I know that thou art a God-fearing man, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only son."

Jews, Christians and Muslims see the story as a parable of true faith, of the covenant between God and the Jewish people, among many other things. In "Dig," the Essene re-enacts this story and takes the role of Abraham as he threatens to sacrifice a tied-up Avram (Guy Selnik), but, as Abraham did for Isaac, the Essene lets Avram go.

Well of Souls

Josh (Zen McGrath) says he's been taught that every star represents a soul that lives in the "Well of Souls" under the Temple in Jerusalem. "Is that a lie too?" he asks.

Yes and no, Josh. There really is a "Well of Souls" under the Temple Mount. It is a cavelike chamber under the Foundation Stone, and Muslims go down a staircase to pray there. But it also refers to a depression in the cave's floor that some believe is hollow and leads to a chamber under all of the buildings on Temple Mount.

Jewish tradition dating to the Middle Ages states that the Well of Souls covers a great abyss that holds all the waters of Noah's flood. Islamic tradition says the Well of Souls covers the center of the world and that all the waters of Paradise run underneath it.

That's where two characters are standing at the end of this episode — and why they can hear the Muslim call to prayer coming from above their heads.

As to whether the Well of Souls actually contains any souls, that's above this reporter's pay grade.

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Return of the Kentucky Goblins: New Leads in a Case of Strange Creatures, Crashed UFOs, and the Men in Black



In June 2012, I was contacted by a frightened man who claimed that a group of small, three-toed creatures were emerging from a mine shaft and terrorizing his rural Kentucky home. After sending us photographic evidence of the creatures and asking us to investigate the case, he eventually fled his property. The appearance of the creatures bore a striking resemblance to a well-documented case from 1955, during which a farmhouse in Hopkinsville, Kentucky was besieged by "goblins" from outer space in an encounter that went down as being one of the most credible, well-documented cases of extraterrestrial contact.

The Kentucky Goblins had returned.

The more I looked into the case of the Kentucky Goblins' reappearance, the more disconnected the story became. Small details led to big events, one answer led to a dozen questions, and a seemingly isolated report of cryptozoological terror in the

backwoods of Kentucky turned into a story of crashed UFOs, secret underground bases, and black ops military operations all over the Appalachian Mountains.

Just when I thought things couldn't get any weirder, I was sent a set of GPS coordinates by an individual that ufologists say was one of the elusive Men in Black. Those coordinates led to a cave hidden in a mountain with a history of alien abduction, mysterious lights, and the disappearance of a tiny "alien mummy".

While I've regularly discussed the evidence and new information with other researchers as it's come in, this will be the first official update to the 2012 case of the Kentucky Goblins. Why now? Later this month I'm finally setting off to find the site of the incident, as well as the sites of two other similar cases hundreds of miles from one another. But before I go, I need your help.

Buckle in once again, weirdos, because this ride has gotten even stranger.

A PANICKED PLEA FROM RURAL KENTUCKY



If you're looking for the full, detailed backstory on the mysterious resurfacing of the goblins, **you can read our original piece *Have the Kentucky Goblins Returned?* [here](#)** (the hundreds of comments alone are worth the read), but for the sake of getting right down to the new information and how you can help solve a 60-year-old mystery, I'm going to begin by reposting the complete emails sent to me in June of 2012. If you've already read them a hundred times, feel free to jump down to **THE PLANET WEIRD INVESTIGATION** for all the new info.

EMAIL 1: THE KENTUCKY GOBLINS RETURN

Hello, my name is [David]. I received your contact information through a mutual acquaintance who assures me that you are well equipped to investigate peculiar problems. Furthermore, I believe you may have interest in these events beyond any compensation that I am prepared to deliver in order to have these issues sorted.

For the past 6 months I have been living in a rural home located on the border of West Virginia and Kentucky where my family is nightly assaulted by creatures that I have come to believe are of an extraterrestrial origin. These beings appear to be the size and stature of a small child, devoid of any facial features save for large, oily eyes and lipless mouths. They frighten my children by peering through their bedroom windows, chirping at one another. They actively attempt to enter my home in the middle of the night. Last month they took my dog. The police refuse to provide any further assistance, attributing the problems to wild animals and forwarding my complaints to the state game commission.

I believe they are coming from an abandoned mine located on the edge of my property. Though I'm armed, I'm afraid that I'm far too frightened to enter the mine by my lonesome, and cannot convince any sympathetic friends to accompany me, though I cannot blame them. I am convinced that the only answer is to collapse the mine.

I believe this is where we can be mutually beneficial to one another. If you are prepared to assist me in this matter, I can offer you permission to record and document these events under the condition of anonymity. I can guarantee you evidence of these creatures which I assure you are not "wild animals".

Please respond ASAP. Thank you.

I shared the email with friends and fellow researchers, sent David a half-sarcastic response about not specializing in extraterrestrial cave

I remembered something Allen Greenfield had mentioned during his warnings about cave investigations years ago: Kentucky caves were massive.



Map of United States Cave Systems via USGS

Kentucky Goblins, it's far from complete.

"Mammoth Cave! It's smack-dab in the middle of Kentucky and it's the largest cave system in the entire world," I blurted. "They've mapped nearly 400 miles of underground caverns and barely scratched the surface. Do you remember if there were any old caves or mines near the old farmhouse?"

"I never saw one, but let me check with my friend who works with the county!"

Several hours after we hung up the phone, a message from Geraldine appeared in my inbox.

Guess what, he said he has heard of a cave!!!

A TIMELINE, A THEORY, AND A PLAN

While I've been able to piece together a pretty crazy timeline in the case of the

- On August 21, 1955, a UFO crash lands near Kelly and Hopkinsville, Kentucky. Dazed and confused from the incident, the occupants of the craft approach the Sutton's lonely farmhouse. When the family sees the creatures, they panic, firing their weapons and driving the "goblins" back into the forest. With the military retrieving the wreckage of their craft, the creatures seek refuge in the nearby cave, never to be seen again.
- Over the next decade, they begin to make a home underground, possibly after reconnecting with others of their kind, possibly in previously-existing subterranean holds. Eventually, their network stretches hundreds of miles, as far as North Carolina.
- In 1961, Ralph Lael makes contact with the creatures on Brown Mountain and brings a dead body home.
- In the 1970s, Allen Greenfield heads to Brown Mountain to meet Lael and is approached by a Man In Black at his motel room. The man goes out of his way to discredit Lael and disappears.
- In 1975 Vietnam War ends and the mysterious Terry Wriste is sent to infiltrate Alien Cave Bases around the country with a black ops team tasked with extraterrestrial extermination. Their mission fails.
- 198- : Ralph Lael dies, his shop is bulldozed, and the body of dead creature goes missing, never to be seen again.
- In late 2011, a rural home in Eastern Kentucky is visited by the goblins. Now acclimated to their environment and living in the nearby Black Mountain, they no longer wear their suits or use their antenna-clad helmets.
- In early 2012, David contacts the local police to report the strange creatures terrorizing his home and frightening his children. The police shrug off his story, but through the department, word reaches someone with a vested interest in the latest appearance of the goblins. eventually this man meets David, introduces himself as Terry Wriste and suggests that David contact us.
- In June 2012, David emails us and pleads for help. Over the next several weeks, David photographs the creatures and flees his home. We exchange exactly four emails before he goes silent.
- In October 2012, Planet Weird tracks down the Brown Mountain Alien Cave Base with Micah Hanks.
- February 2013, someone claiming to be Terry Wriste emails me GPS coordinates for the Brown Mountain base entrance. Might be disinformation.
- In May of 2015, I'm mailed a copy of *Alien Legacy*. The book is a catalyst for contacting Geraldine Sutton-Stith and piecing together this timeline.
- In September 2015, I send an email to David. It bounces. His account has been deactivated.
- In October 2015, Planet Weird finally heads to Pike County, KY.

THE ALIEN CAVE BASE TASK FORCE IS GO



alien cave base task force shirt

#ACBTF

you or someone you know seen something similar to the descriptions of the Kentucky Goblins in your hometown? Do the sightings coincide with nearby caves, mines, or mountains with an abundance of strange activity? Have you found any footprints resembling the ones discovered in the 2012 Goblins appearance?

There's a lot of gaps in that timeline, not to mention **whole lot** of conjecture, but when you're investigating 60-year-old goblin conspiracies, you're kind of forced to make some leaps.

Now that **Weird HQ** is located in Cincinnati, OH, we're literally 3.5 hours from David's town, and with a timeline firmly in place, we're finally putting boots on the ground in the hopes we can capture some real evidence that *any* of this crazy story is true at all.

But before we set off into the mountains of Kentucky to whisper about goblins in rural watering holes, we need your help.

If you have anything – no matter how "crazy" it might sound – that you can add to the timeline we've pieced together, we want to hear it. Have

Any and every bit of information can help bring this case to a satisfying conclusion. Share this information with your local monster hunters, cryptozoologists, and paranormal investigators. Send it to your favorite paranormal radio shows, blogs, and message boards. Post it on

social media, bring it up at dinner, and ask your weird uncle. That dude has got to know something.



Based on all the available information, this may be the site of the 2012 Kentucky Goblin encounter

We're setting off on an initial stakeout in just a few weeks. I realize that with all the talk about Men In Black and the nefarious undertones of the communications we've received makes announcing our investigation plans a bit of a risk, but the possibility of going into this adventure with as much information as possible makes it a risk worth taking. So again, if you've got information, leave it in the comments or email me privately at greg@weirdhq.com.

It might sound extreme, but I've already set up instructions for a third party to act as a dead man's trigger. If something goes wrong and don't check in after a certain period of time, every piece of information we have about the case, from David's real name, our intended location, and the coordinates to the Alien Cave Base will be dumped online with hard copies mailed to half a dozen of the best researchers we know in the fields of ufology, cryptozoology, and government conspiracies.

I have a feeling things are going to get very interesting in the next few weeks. Stay tuned.

Keep checking the comments section below, as we'll use it for ongoing communication about the case. To boot, be sure to , , and **follow us on Instagram** for live updates as we set off in search of the Kentucky Goblins.

Greg Newkirk

76 Comments

1. Kurt Frost

10/03/2015 at 10:20 AM

Wow.

▫ Greg Newkirk

10/03/2015 at 10:27 AM

That about sums it up, yeah.

2. The Guy You Love From TV

10/03/2015 at 11:30 AM

I'm so pumped up for this! Been waiting forever for an update. Be careful guys, and good luck.

3. Rick Fitzharris

10/03/2015 at 2:18 PM

Have you been compared to John Keel yet? Because after reading this that's all that I can think. I'm expecting this whole investigation to be turned into a Hollywood film.

Good luck on the adventure!

▫ Greg Newkirk

10/05/2015 at 9:52 AM

That's about the nicest thing anyone has ever said to me, Rick. Maybe someday weird dudes will carry my ashes around on a necklace too.

But I hope not.

4. Ruth

10/03/2015 at 6:53 PM

Seriously? Be careful guys, too many years of reading this kind of stuff and watching X-Files makes me really leery of things! Can't wait to see how this turns out. Make sure someone lets the readers of this site know if anything happens, I'd really hate to be left in the dark now!

▫ Greg Newkirk

10/05/2015 at 9:54 AM

We're going to maintain as much contact as we can! We'll have a post up about it as soon as we get back from the scouting mission!

5. Jeff

10/04/2015 at 9:32 AM

Holy shit!!! be careful guys!! Been waiting on news about this for three years this is fucking nuts. You should periscope that shit!

- Greg Newkirk

10/05/2015 at 9:54 AM

I'll absolutely Periscope the adventure, but considering where this place is, I kind of doubt I'll have cell phone service. Keep your fingers crossed.

6. Greg Newkirk

10/04/2015 at 5:11 PM

Fair warning – read this one with the lights on.

7. Sharon

10/04/2015 at 11:28 AM

Please be careful. This Canadian will be waiting for more info. Good luck.

8. Steve Lewis

10/04/2015 at 7:09 PM

I had a Goblin encounter. But the creature I saw bears little resemblance to the creatures described here. It happened in the county of Somerset, England and at the head of a place known as... wait for it... Goblin Coombe, which is very close to Bristol Airport.

It happened back in 1973 on a late night journey through small country lanes in my Morris Minor with my girlfriend at the time. We were on a very narrow track called Cooks Bridal Path and had just passed the entrance to the coombe where the track became a road and turned hard left because of the runway of the airport which intersected the original track. There, illuminated in the headlights was a black coloured creature scrabbling around in the undergrowth at the edge of the road. As the lights hit it, it immediately stood and faced us looking startled, mouth open bearing it's sharp teeth.

It appeared to be dark skinned, like old leather, or similar to bodies that have been preserved in peat bogs. It was 3-4 ft tall, was naked and clearly male. It's hair was matted like dreadlocks, it's eyes were yellow with cat like pupils, pointed ears and chin. Its torso was very skinny and underfed looking with very long arms that came down below it's knees, with very powerful looking thighs and large feet. In an instant it turned tail and took off at incredible speed down the road before us.

But it was the way it ran which was the most unusual and difficult to describe. It's torso was parallel to the ground and the thighs produced this weird wobbling gait with huge strides at least 8ft between each footstep/hop. It ran in leaps and bounds all knees and elbows.

We had difficulty keeping up with it as it scuttled down the road ahead of us. It eventually leaped over a barbed wire fence into a corn field and vanished from sight but seemingly angrily ripping up corn and tossing it into the air as it fled.

Several months later I was shocked to hear a similar tale from a friend of mine who had witnessed a very similar creature, only this time in Brockley Coombe, which has a road down through it, unlike Goblin Coombe which is only a footpath. Both run parallel to each other separated by a mile or so.

- Week In Weird

10/04/2015 at 7:09 PM

OH GOD DON'T LEAVE US HANGING!

- Steve Lewis

10/04/2015 at 7:12 PM

Apologies, I pressed return by mistake and now I have a phone call. Hang on please..

- Steve Lewis

10/04/2015 at 7:42 PM

Loved your tale by the way. Since my encounter I have remained interested in the paranormal and have had several UFO sightings throughout my lifetime.

■ russ barnes

10/11/2015 at 2:55 PM

◦ Steve Lewis

10/04/2015 at 7:57 PM

Here's one I managed to film. Please read the description.

◦ Colin Macpherson

10/05/2015 at 12:17 AM

Steve when you notice the light at first does it change in brightness I've seen similar lights to this in Glasgow but what drew my attention was that they were at first like stars moving till I took a picture when they came up in my phone the pictures hadn't came out with the brightness but it changed colour to pastel blues to pinks but at the same time as I looking through the camera I had to keep my eye on the objects as I said were moving but still looked stars in brightness but on camera they looked very much like the orb in your film they seemed to be following the motor way and checking out the routes of the planes as I can see the flight routes from my home as that was just a few months ago

◦ Steve Lewis

10/05/2015 at 12:37 AM

Hi Colin. I have good peripheral vision and first noticed them, for there were originally two lights, out of the corner of my eye. Their brightness seemed constant to me but may not appear so in the clip except for a slight shimmering, but that may have been due to light refraction through the rain. The camera was resting on a gatepost, all the movement is the light itself. It appeared to be about 150 yards away and perhaps 2 ft in diameter. It appeared much brighter to the naked eye. It could of course have been the old 'swamp gas' explanation as it was over the Somerset levels.

I have several photos of orbs that I did not see until I viewed the photos, several in daylight. I also have photos of strange anomalies over the Chew Valley, which is where I live in Somerset.

My best sighting of all was in the south of France in daylight. It was a giant dull silver disc with a dark circle at it's centre that remained stationary for at least 20 minutes and completely silent right above us. It later slowly moved towards a mountain range to the north and began firing orbs that looked like pearls from it's circumference that rocketed off at such speed that it was difficult to follow their trajectory with my eyes.

I've seen so many now that it has almost become matter of fact. Chuckle....:D

◦ Colin Macpherson

10/05/2015 at 1:00 AM

To be honest I thought I was going off my head lol its not everyone you can talk to about it but my pictures though poor quality done the trick I could talk about it and have something to back me up I think there's a few more people around my area looking out of windows at night now lol cheers for your reply

◦ Steve Lewis

10/05/2015 at 1:09 AM

You're welcome. Of course it's always shocking at first when we see things that are out of the ordinary and destroys our normal world view. We always risk the piss taking of our peers if we dare speak of what we know for a fact we saw. But people have closed minds and most would be terrified if they actually saw it themselves. But how many actually look up?

"There are more things in heaven and earth, Horatio, than are dreamt of in your philosophy."

~ Willy the Shakespeare.

9. Dylan

10/04/2015 at 2:01 PM

A friend of mine has seen one of these creatures.

We live in Halifax N.S., Canada

My friend lives about ten minutes out of the city. Years ago as a kid he would sneak into the junk yard just beyond a stretch of woods past his trailer park. One evening as he climbed over the bank which ran along the length of the junk yard, he watched a small pale creature scurry up to the top of a large junk pile. My friend started to make his way down the other side of the bank when the creature let out a shriek and ran down the side of the pile, into the woods on the opposite side.

He was about 200-300 metres from the creature, but his description was nearly identical to David's. He also mentioned that when it made it to the base of the junk pile, it ran into the woods on two feet with its arms slightly raised. Similar to a Velocitaptor.

I've had a strange encounter of my own which happened not far from there.

Years ago when I was a kid I was walking home from another friends place. We lived in a similarly wooded area, about a three minute walk from one another. Though the road was paved and a street lamp illuminated the way every so often, I brought a flashlight with me this time (which I'd never felt compelled to do before or since). As I made my way up the road, my friend's cat came from out of the woods and started walking with me side by side. This had never happened before either. It was almost like she was guarding me. About halfway up the hill I heard a rustling in the bushes at the edge of the woods. I shined my light towards the direction of the sound only for the creature to bolt into the woods at lightning speed. I didn't even catch a glimpse, yet whatever it was was strong enough to violently shake trees as it darted past. As strange and abrupt as it was, I brushed it off as a deer, which are common in that area. I continued to walk up the hill when out of the woods echoed the loudest, most terrifying shriek/roar I've ever heard. I instantly pivoted in place towards to the sound, slamming my foot down on the cat's tail, sending her screeching up the road. I stood there frozen in shock. After a few moments I continued home. After hours of research, the closest audio recording match I could find was that of apparent Sasquatch's.

Not sure if I heard the same creature my friend saw.

◦ Greg Newkirk

10/07/2015 at 8:17 PM

Hey Dylan, would you or your friend be willing to talk more about these weird sightings? We're trying to make a record of them. Drop me a line: greg@weirdhq.com

10. Steve Robinson

10/04/2015 at 9:09 PM

Your pen/ink sketch (above) of the 'creature' leaning out from behind a tree, with one hand steadying itself, is eerily similar to a photo captured by my game camera several years ago. My game camera took a photo of this creature (still unidentified) at 1:01pm (brightest sunlight), at the edge of the tree line 75 ft from my residence, on 8 Feb 2008. It is one of two photographs that were triggered on the camera. The earlier picture, snapped at 12:55 pm shows grass and brush pushed into view by something which was hiding (and remained unseen at that time) behind the tree. Analysis, including comparison of a "side-by-side" of myself standing on the same spot as the creature occupied, indicated that the top of the creature's head was 4 ft 6 inches above the ground. It appears to be holding the tree with an "arm/hand" although there is some question as to whether that is actually an "arm" or not. It was leaning out from behind the tree, looking directly at the game camera and the house beyond. There has been ongoing activity of an unexplained nature in the area since that time, and investigations have been conducted by both the Bigfoot Field Research Organization, and the Mid-America Bigfoot Research Council. In Oct 2011 the Travel Channel sent a production crew to film on the property, and they met with several other witnesses and interviewed all, carrying out "reenactments" on our property from noon until 10:30pm. I live a couple of miles north of Forsyth, in the SW corner of Missouri.



◦ Week In Weird

10/04/2015 at 9:16 PM

Steve, that's REALLY interesting. Do you have a larger res version of the photo that we could take a look at? We'd love to run it through a few programs.

Do you think it was Bigfoot... or something else?

◦ Steve Robinson

10/04/2015 at 9:31 PM

I have both of the original game camera pictures that are much wider, showing the forest behind and the sapling/brush/branches being pushed from behind the tree by "something hiding there" in the picture triggered 6 minutes earlier than this one. I've been working with others to analyze this photo since we discovered it on the camera memory chip back in 2008... but still no resolution. We have had ongoing BF activity in the area, with many sightings by friends/neighbors NOT reported due to a wish to avoid ridicule/media. For several years we recorded vocalizations that have NOT been identified... but which scaled back about 20 months ago to nearly nothing. We've heard two calls this year. All calls were tracked on calendar with day/time/date/moon/weather/etc. If you are still curious you may wish to visit my FB page where I have a photo album with all sorts of pictures, and I also have a collection of audio recordings in my VIDEO album. I'd be pleased to discuss this with you further... at length... if you think that you might help us solve the great puzzle of WTH izzit!!

BTW our most recent vocal/visit event took place on the night of the recent eclipse. We were outside on the back deck, with all lights extinguished, standing silently, waiting for the moon to clear the trees. I bumped a deck chair and the noise apparently startled something "very large" which was in the yard, but still near the treeline. With several "WHUFFF" vocalizations, and much stomping of brush, whatever it was quickly left the yard, into the forest, and all the neighbor dogs began to sound the alarm as the stomping retreated. We are one of several side-by-side 10-acre "long rectangle" lots very near to the Mark Twain National Forest. My wife and I are certain that this creature (unseen by us) was neither a bear 'growling' nor a buck 'snorting' nor a feral hog 'grunting'. We were concerned enough for our safety that we quickly fetched lights (which revealed NOTHING) and then ensured that a loaded shotgun was close beside the door the rest of the night. The picture is our property, and you can see that our "residence" is actually a tiny clearing in the much larger 10 acre site. The long rectangle is oriented roughly North-South, the roadway at the right is on the south side of the property. The line on the left is a creek, located some 200 ft lower in elevation than our residence.

◊ Steve Robinson

10/04/2015 at 9:48 PM

Pls contact me via FB msg if you have difficulty viewing the photo albums or the VIDEO albums.

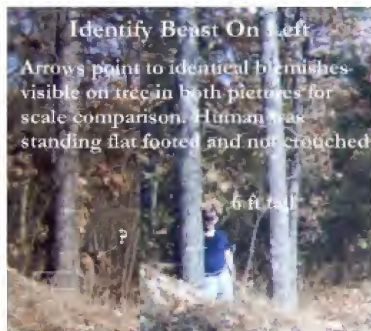


◊ Steve Robinson

10/05/2015 at 3:24 PM

If you wish copies of my higher res photos, pls send a FB msg and I'll pass copies your way. If you can provide me with an email address (didn't find one on your web page, only a snail mail address), then I'll send whatever you desire to examine. I'm intrigued by your comment of having some software to analyze the photos. Here is a side-by-side of myself, standing on the same spot as the creature in the game camera picture. It was taken by the same game camera, then the two pictures were aligned and individual marks on the trees in the two pictures were

used to ensure scale was the same.



■ Matt

10/05/2015 at 11:26 AM

Do you have any other pictures (same day, same camera setup) of that tree? Right now I'm leaning towards pareidolia, but it would be very intriguing if that creature doesn't appear in any other photo.

◊ Donald

10/29/2015 at 5:15 AM

Even without any research but having seen them before in South America I do believe that is a giant anteater ... Not putting rubbish on your story though, I do believe there

are strange things going on our planet but that's how I see it.

That really is a giant anteater



■ Donald

10/29/2015 at 5:20 AM

→ Just a bit more ... look like goblins, scratch on windows and door screens, go deep inside massive caves (full of ants, you see), hairless bodies ... Inquisitive.... on and on.

Here is your goblin:

file2.answcdn.com/answ-cld/image/upload/h_320,c_fill,g_face:center,q_60,f_jpg/v1401222822/y7i1hv1jl66iuj3je9xa.jpg

■ Donald

10/29/2015 at 5:30 AM

JUst one more comment, not really trying to invade your site but I find this story very interesting.

Here is a footprint from a giant anteater .. due to their gait (manner of walking) they sometimes leave three toe footprints only .. get in touch with an expert, go and see them. Find out about their traits and how to attract them .. it isn't that hard and they are not that scared of humans.

In many ways they are like magpies .. thieves .. especially their young when playing. They have been known to leave yards in a mess.

Your entire story seems to describe them to a "T"

No more comments but I bookmarked your site ... good luck

https://c1.staticflickr.com/9/8154/7570674980_622c71233b.jpg

11. Kevin Webb

10/04/2015 at 10:01 PM

Good Luck Yall!!!!

◦ Week In Weird

10/04/2015 at 10:04 PM

Thanks, Kevin! We'll need it!

12. Dan - Dallas, TX

10/04/2015 at 3:13 PM

Ya'll be careful out there. I'll be looking forward to your safe return and interesting updates.

◦ Greg Newkirk

10/05/2015 at 9:59 AM

Thanks, Dan! We'll keep you posted!

13. MIB 2 SUCKED

10/04/2015 at 3:36 PM

Have you considered that Terry Wriste might have been trying to throw you off the trail in Kentucky by overstating the importance of Brown Mountain? Sounds like he was sending you on a wild goose chase to me. I'd pay special attention to Kentucky if I were in your shoes.

Stay safe.

◦ Greg Newkirk

10/05/2015 at 10:04 AM

That was actually my first thought, because it doesn't seem to make much sense that we'd be focusing too much on a place a few hundred miles from the 2012 incident. That said, it was before we started thinking about the connections to Black Mountain, the massive network of underground caves up the Appalachian Mountain range, and the possibility that it all might seriously be connected to the Hopkinsville case.

Regardless, we're now in the right position to investigate the scene of all three, so we will, with Eastern KY being our first priority.

14. Twinkletits

10/05/2015 at 7:24 AM

So who are the third parties that are going to release the information if you guys dont come back? Need to know where to look if the goblins get you.

◦ Greg Newkirk

10/05/2015 at 10:02 AM

HAHAHA NICE TRY, MEN IN BLACK.

But seriously, there's no way I can tell you that. You'll be able to find the information easily, but telling anyone who the third-parties are might put them at risk.

I can give you some names of people I don't like though.

15. Alien Hunter

10/05/2015 at 9:40 AM

"SLUF" isn't gibberish. It's there for a reason. It stands for SHORT LITTLE UGLY FUCKER. Old acronym from the American soldiers in the Vietnam War.

◦ Greg Newkirk

10/05/2015 at 10:00 AM

Hot damn, I actually meant to include that in the post but got sidetracked. Thanks for the reminder.

Seriously creepy stuff.

16. Bradc

10/05/2015 at 10:10 AM

Been several aircraft crashes in the area the last few years that are dismissed even with multiple people seeing them. Lots of strange stuff going on here in the mountains

◦ Greg Newkirk

10/05/2015 at 10:11 AM

Interesting. Got a place I could start looking into those crashes?

■ Bradc

10/05/2015 at 10:35 AM

http://www.wkyt.com/wymt/home/headlines/Still_no_explanation_for_apparent_explosion_in_Perry_Co_135475083.html?device=phone&c=y

This one a few years ago had 100 people or more call reporting an aircraft fall from the sky. The info gets snuffed out pretty quick.

An aircraft was spotted crashing in my town in knott county a couple weeks ago. Multiple copters flew in and they blocked the roads in the area. After a few hours they reported nothing crashed despite several witness saying they saw it wreck. I have a screen shot of our local radio posting that credible witnesses saw the crash.

■ Greg Newkirk

10/05/2015 at 10:53 AM

That's very, very odd. Black Mountain isn't *too* terribly far from either of these events either.

■ Bradc

10/05/2015 at 11:47 AM

Black mountain is prob 40ish miles or so as a crow flies. Good luck. The mountains up here are a little tricky this time of year

17. Matt

10/05/2015 at 10:28 AM

WOW – You've pieced together an impressive timeline Greg. Too bad you couldn't capitalize on an investigation in 2012 with David but I can also understand why you didn't. Best of luck to you with your investigation and BE SAFE. There are so many reports of these creatures and it's only a matter of time before we see some concrete evidence.

◦ Greg Newkirk

10/05/2015 at 10:55 AM

Thanks, Matt! I really do wish I could have gone out to the site back when it was first reported, but it just wasn't an option at the time. There was no shortage of cryptozoologists or UFO researchers offering to take the case, but like I mentioned, I didn't want to hand it off to just anyone in the event that David actually did come back in the picture.

■ Matt

10/05/2015 at 11:29 AM

Well you did the right thing and remained an honest contact for David should he ever re-emerge.

18. Ruth

10/05/2015 at 10:43 AM

You know, now that I re-read this, I wonder if there have been any similar sightings in Oklahoma? There are a lot of old mines in the Eastern part of the state, mostly abandoned or water filled. I know there were a lot of pit mines that are used as fishing holes from when we lived in that part of the state. I'm not sure about mines that go back in the mountains, but there are some caves in some of the areas there. We lived in Wilburton which is still pretty rural and there are some caves in what is now a state park there that were used by Belle Starr and her gang and other robbers, possibly even some of the local Indian tribes used them. There are of course a lot of Big Foot sightings that stretch back over the centuries. I'll try and do some research on it. All my contacts from that area were over 30 years ago so most are probably not around anymore. Now my curious is aroused!!

▫ Greg Newkirk

10/05/2015 at 10:52 AM

If you happen to find anything that looks even the slightest bit out of the ordinary, please let us know! The more information, the better. If you start finding stories of three-toed mine-dwellers, I'm gonna freak.

19. ...

10/05/2015 at 10:58 AM

Not far from pike county, near paintsville ky, a train crew reportedly had a collision with a ufo in 2002

▫ Matt

10/05/2015 at 11:21 AM

That incident may be a hoax. <http://www.nuforc.org/webreports/049/S49934.html>

20. Coppertop

10/05/2015 at 11:40 AM

Well, that's more than a little eerie, Greg.

Good luck, godspeed, and return with tales of High Strangeness, sir. Don't let the MIBs brainwash you or coerce you! Seriously, I hope you bring back something good – even if it's another tale to add to the growing list of oddities surrounding these... things.

21. Susan Byrne

10/05/2015 at 4:00 PM

I'm delighted with this update and all the new info you've provided – thanks! I was one of the nay-sayers who doubted the authenticity of David's story, based on his 'confusion' about the gender of his dog. Just to reiterate briefly, in my opinion it's still suspicious: dog-owners simply don't get confused about that, and there were too many He/She references for it to have been down to a typo. Sometimes, tiny details can mean everything. So I'm shocked to hear that the local police have, let's face it, basically confirmed that 'something' was investigated by them. That really does lend credibility to the story.

Best of luck to you guys on your adventure, and do take care. I will say a prayer to all of yall's guardian angels to keep you safe. Looking forward to your safe return and subsequent update

▫ tinyjunco

10/10/2015 at 9:14 AM

I understand people thinking a person forgetting the gender of the dog is just too crazy... but i've known several people who do just that. Growing up, to our neighbog Mr. Musgrove all dogs were 'he'. Mr. M even asked how 'he' was doing after 'he' gave birth to 'his' puppies!

Anyways just my two cents. Very exciting developments!

22. butch winn

10/06/2015 at 12:19 AM

I live in harlan county kentucky and grew up on black mountain, and there are hundreds of stories about what tne locals call Big

Black mountain, and to stay the hell off of it at night. I could point you to literally 100's of caves, but have no doubt that you will have no problem finding any yourself. I will say that you will want to be careful with the temperature and weather here in October because she can be one mean bitch if it takes a notion. If you are interested in any areas to check specifically feel free to contact me , I am easier to reach on Facebook , but wwill check the comments section on here as well. Be safe and go armed,the mountains here have a lot of wildlife that gets hungry this time of year. Also, remember that deer season is in October.

23. Lisette

10/06/2015 at 8:55 AM

Kobolds, anyone? At least that's my first thought when you say strange small creature associated with a mine. Kobolds are about the right height, but described as more blue in color (cobalt). Believe they were mostly German, but there might have been stories from Wales & England as well. As far as I know, they didn't leave the mines or cause lights to shine out from the mines – but they were something you didn't want to encounter. Miners would report seeing them and hearing strange knocking noises. Hope that helps.

24. Brett

10/07/2015 at 1:34 PM

Hey guys, a Kentucky native here and you may be interested to read up on the Cherokee legends of the little people in the Appalachians. They were known as the Yunwi Tsunsdi and we're considered to be tricksters and able to control the thoughts of people who strayed too close. Just a little interesting folklore to take a look at. Please be careful as these old mines and caves have been known to harbor terrifying creatures of the terrestrial kind as well as little goblins. Take care!

25. Ravensfee

10/08/2015 at 2:55 AM

I couldn't sleep last night so got up and ended up reading this and the earlier post in a pitch black room at 3:30am hoping I wouldn't suddenly hear something scurrying around in the back garden.

They're great posts and tell a fascinating story. I was gripped. But as I was reading them at the back of my mind all I could think of was a throwaway comment Greg Bishop had made on an old Radio Misterioso podcast about how Ufology could do with a good hoax to liven things up. I'm paraphrasing, Greg or maybe it was one of his guests, would have made a more intelligent point. But you get the gist.

I'm not suggesting that Bishop is behind this but it has the feel of a Jim Moseley prank. The inclusion of Terry Wriste and strange numbers that turn out to be GPS coordinates (really they should have been sent as binary for the full Jim Penniston Rendlesham effect) seemed slightly too clever to me.

Anyway whether I'm right or wrong about this being a hoax, it wouldn't surprise me if that as you progress further synchronicities and other strangeness start popping up at alarming frequency. Who knows what you'll end up discovering.

It's something I've often pondered in this field are hoaxers just making things up or are they somehow a manifestation of the phenomenon itself?

Anyway that's a rumination for another time. I look forward to your next update Greg and hope things stay the fun side of weird.

26. Gwen

10/08/2015 at 2:19 PM

Just wanted to compliment you on some great research/investigating and echo everyone else in saying be careful out there! Really looking forward to seeing your stakeout results!

27. josh chow

10/08/2015 at 10:38 PM

I'm on vacation at red river gorge only about an hour away from pike county. I'd love to come help out if needed. Thanks

28. Sande Wells

10/09/2015 at 3:34 AM

Sending positive thoughts and prayers, Be Safe.

29. Olivia

10/09/2015 at 3:51 PM

Jesus please stay safe. Good luck!

goblins, and wrote it off as a hoax.

The following day, David returned my email.

EMAIL 2: TERRY WRISTE AND THE "HAIRLESS CHILDREN"

Thank you for the prompt response. I do not blame you for being skeptical of my story. I appreciate you keeping an open mind about my situation and I am more than happy to provide you with as much information as I am able.

I was given your contact information through a man by the name of Terry Wriste **[Editors Note: I've left this name untouched due to it's relevance and the fact that I don't believe it to be a real person – we'll come back to this]**. When these disturbances first began occurring, I was only inclined to confide in a personal friend who I knew had fringe interests. He offered to share my concerns with a man that had dealt with somewhat similar experiences in previous years. I accepted his offer. Within a week I was informed that this gentleman had long since retired from pursuits of this kind but was willing to provide me with contacts who may be willing to help. This is how I came to contact you. I do not have any answer to "why" other than a referral and recommendation from a gentleman I do not know personally. I was under the impression that you would answer that question.

I am located in Pike County, just outside the town of [redacted], Kentucky. [redacted] is located roughly 30 to 60 minutes from the borders of Virginia and West Virginia respectively. Most of Pike County is made up of small towns and rural communities; it is not uncommon to go days without seeing my closest neighbors. I moved to this area for the peace and quiet. I have received neither.

I have lived in this area for just under seven months and in that time the majority of the harassment has occurred within the past three. I did not become aware of any strangeness until early December, although that is only when I began to keep a record of these events. At first it was merely strange tracks in the snow around my home. I had initially imagined that they were from some kind of animal, though it closely resembled a human footprint minus the heel. At that time I was under the impression that it was simply a single creature. It wasn't until the weeks later that I began to suspect that I was dealing with a number of what I thought were individuals "hazing" me upon my arrival to the area.

At this point I was incapable of keeping my dog outdoors overnight. Any attempt to leave her leashed would result in her barking herself hoarse until she was allowed back indoors. In the weeks leading up to this particular evening I had awoken to find my shed doors open on several occasions, many of my children's toys missing or moved, and my yard in general disarray. I had already given a report to the police, who were making it increasingly clear that they were not interested in my case barring psychical harm or large scale theft.

The second week of January I am having breakfast with my family when my five year old daughter begins talking about the "kids without hair". When my wife inquired about these kids, she informed us that she had spent the previous night watching them play in the yard. As you can imagine, this was of some concern. I asked my daughter what these kids looked like, she told me that they "were bald like grandpa and weren't wearing any clothes". The very same day I found the wreath that hangs inside our rear porch stuffed into our mailbox. I purchased and installed motion activated floodlights the following day and for a time, the problems ceased. It wasn't until the end of February that our daughter informed us that the "bald kids" had returned.

I was awoken to the sound to my daughter screaming and rushed to her bedroom only to meet her halfway down the hall. When my wife and I were finally able to calm her down enough to speak, she told us that the kids were trying to peer into her window but they couldn't reach, and instead, had taken to tapping on it. She hasn't slept in her own bedroom since. It was that morning that I phoned the police for the second the time, and they responded by finally sending a trooper to our residence. I informed him of the regular mischief, how I was now unable to let my dog outdoors after dusk, and of the "bald kids". When we found the ground disturbed just under my daughter's bedroom window the officer informed me, very matter-of-factly, that we were dealing with an animal and I would be better off contacting the game commission than waste their resources any further.

Almost every day for the following week, I would find some evidence that something or someone had been on my property the previous night. Smudges on the windows were not uncommon, stones from the walkway dragged to the other side of the lawn, and I had found tears in the screen door. On Wednesday the 7th of March I finally witnessed the "kids without hair" for myself.

The dog woke me up around 1:30 AM, scratching at the back door and whimpering to be let out. I noticed that the motion floodlight was on, and went to the kitchen window to check that the shed doors were still closed when I realized that I could see the shadow of an individual cast across my lawn. From the angle I was positioned at the window I could not actually see the source of the shadow or the floodlights. The dog was pacing circles around the back door and I could hear someone rifling through a box on the porch. Filled with more anger than common sense, the only reaction I could muster was to bang loudly on the window and yell, at which point I heard the screen door on the porch swing open and slam against the house. I heard what I can only describe as "chirping" at this point. **It sounded much like a skunk, if more guttural.** I then realized that there were more than two people on my property, and the shadow, which had been reacting as if it didn't know which way to run, was quickly joined by another. For a moment I watched as the shadows chirped at one another when I noticed a figure out of the corner of my eye.

Standing in the flower bed just to the bottom left of my window was a small, humanoid figure, with sickly pale skin, completely hairless, standing roughly 4'. It was looking in the direction of the shadows, and had clearly come from around the left side of the house opposite the porch and had not noticed me as far as I could tell. It's face was devoid of features, save for large

30. russ barnes

10/11/2015 at 2:50 PM

Greg no fear these being are from another dimension. they cannot kill you. now you may get hurt but that could be a human or a bear. I hope you have a fire arm. It would be cool.to go with you guys!

31. Michael Edwards

10/11/2015 at 5:59 PM

Greg, I am wishing and praying protection on you and your crew. What a fascinating, fun, unnerving, spellbinding tale you have landed in! I look forward to your reports with great interest!

32. Kuke

10/11/2015 at 6:49 PM

Hey, y'all should check out the Mothman Festival in Pt. Pleasant, WV. It has grown to include much more paranormal stuff than just the Mothman. The festival is in September, but the Mothman Museum is open year 'round. Check it out... and definitely talk to Jeff Wamsley.

33. Edgars Freibergs

10/11/2015 at 11:59 PM

Reading your piece something struck my thoughts.

These events are all taking place apparent in or around Point Pleasant KY and directly across from that Point Pleasant WV site of Keel's famous Mothman/MIB encounters. Guess what Point Pleasant sits smack dab on those extensive cave system of Mammoth Cave KY. And your having the same MIB like events going on as Keel did.

Caves seem to be all connected to these events.

34. Troy Ferrill

10/13/2015 at 10:25 PM

Greetings! Not sure why I'm writing to y'all, except to say I really feel compelled to drop a quick line. I've resisted posting a comment up until now, simply because I don't feel I have anything to contribute like so many of the other folks who have posted. Nonetheless, I'm putting this out there for your consideration.

The Kelly- Hopkinsville case has fascinated me since I was a boy. Not sure what "they" were or are, but I think there's one thing to keep in mind. You're investigating during a very liminal time of the year...this is the season of Halloween / Samhain. Please, whatever you do, please go into this investigation with great respect for whatever it is you want to see and find.

By the way, please tell me you took salt with you.

35. Michael

10/16/2015 at 9:59 AM

I gather from twitter that you found the house!

36. Tomy

10/21/2015 at 11:52 PM

Louisville resident here! Really excited to hear of a great, interesting case in my home state. The Hopkinsville Goblin case has always been a favorite of mine and the connections this makes is pretty exciting! Good luck and can't wait to see more!

37. Surfndestiny

10/24/2015 at 6:33 PM

Sounds Like the Mayan Aluxob have returned

38. Surfndestiny

10/24/2015 at 6:49 PM

<http://flickrriver-lb-1710691658.us-east-1.elb.amazonaws.com/places/France/Aquitaine/Loupes/search/>

<http://missionquest.fpb.yuku.com/topic/4940/The-Mayan-Legend-of-the-Alux#.Vlwzk41zPIU>

Mexican name: Chaneques; "The Elves Mexican"

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/* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */.en-m arkup-crop-options {top: 18px !important;left: 50% !important;m argin-left: -100px !important;width: 200px !important;border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important;border-radius: 4px !important;}.en-m arkup-crop-options div div.first-of-type {m argin-left: 0px !important;}

round eyes, very reminiscent in shape and color of a bird's eye. It had no nose to speak of, and only a small slit for a mouth. It didn't appear to move its mouth as it chirped, sounding more as if the noises originated from its throat. It was most certainly not a "wild animal" and even more certainly not a child. I was too terrified to move, and watched as the creature hopped to the others, and together they scrambled into the woods on the right side of my property. It was clear that there were at least five in the group.

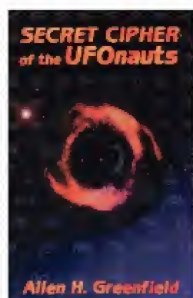
I have not mentioned this particular incident to my wife, and the only other person who I've spoken to about these creatures are yourself and the close friend who introduced me to our mutual friend Mr. Wriste. I would prefer to keep things that way, and to approach this problem as discreetly as possible. Since that evening, my dog has gone missing from the porch, yet to return, and I can only imagine that his disappearance has to do with these creatures. I've gone looking for him during daylight hours, only to find many of my missing belongings scattered at the entrance to an abandoned mine shaft at the far edge of my property. I don't dare go inside.

My friend has convinced me that my experience is similar to that of other "visitation" experiences, providing me with material and references that back up his claims. I am aware of the outlandish nature of what I have told you, but I am afraid that I have no other explanation for what I have seen, at least at this time. I can see no other option than to seal the entrance to the mine. I cannot achieve this on my own, and I am too frightened to try. I don't dare share this information with others for fear of ruining my career and the reputation of my family. I am prepared to compensate your travel expenses and offer you unrestricted access with whatever recording equipment that you desire but only on the condition of complete anonymity. Beyond that, I have no other desire than to be rid of this problem.

Please inform me of what you would like photographs of and where to send them.

Thank you again.

I had no idea who this "mutual friend" was, and neither did any of my old investigating partners. A bit of googling provides only one source for the name Terry R. Wriste: a pseudonym used by an ex-military occultist interviewed in two rather obscure books printed in the mid-nineties. Titled *The Secret Cipher of the Ufonauts* and *The Secret Rituals of the Men In Black*, these particular books are about as fringe as you can get when it comes to ufology, with instructions on contacting "ultraterrestrials" via occult rituals supposedly deciphered by Aleister Crowley himself.



ALLEN H. GREENFIELD



Secret Cipher of the Ufonauts and Allen H Greenfield

Just before the index of each book, author Allen Greenfield conducts an interview with Terry, who willingly admits that his name is not real. In these interviews, Wriste speaks of a guerrilla group of Vietnam veterans formed in the early 70's whose directives **included the infiltration and destruction of underground alien bases in and around the southern USA**. After explaining how the team formed and where many of these cave entrances were located, he goes on to describe the botched mission that caused him to retire from kicking space alien ass.

"... we were in a kind of cavern, only, I'd say, artificially hollowed out and illuminated by a greenish glow, defuse; not from a single, identifiable source. Anyhow, the whole area resembled (ufologist Dick) Shaver's less exotic subterranean story descriptions, and, in more recent terms, some of the modern alien base stories. We were confronted by these small,

grayish beings—humanoid only in the technical sense—and one of our guys said "Derol" and started shooting. He had an M-1 rifle, if I recall. One shot, and [the little gray being] was illuminated in blue, and just gone. Then there was a sound, and I felt my own gun, an M-16, get unbearably hot. I dropped it, turned to run, and was confronted by two of these little gray-skinned guys with a net. Whatever had convinced me my rifle was hot had apparently not focused on my pistol, a vintage Luger, and one of the little net-holders received the last surprise of its life. It kind of exploded, and the other one dropped the net and ran, up the slope, with me suddenly in pursuit. When we got beyond the lighted area, though, it was just gone. I heard gun fire and explosions behind me, and that god-awful hum, and I continued, pistol in hand, looking around wildly, to go back the way I came. Only three of us ever made it back to the surface. One of them died a year or so later, of leukemia, I think. He was only about 24-25, so maybe there's a connection."

Wriste also talks of meeting a group of extraterrestrial refugees led by none other than Indrid Cold. **Yes, that Indrid Cold.**

At this point, I wanted nothing more than to see the photographs David claimed to have, but it was several weeks before I received a response.

EMAIL 3: THREE-TOED FOOTPRINTS

My apologies for the time it has taken me to reply to your previous email. The situation at my home had become unbearable and we chose to stay with my wife's family out of state until an appropriate solution can be reached. I am at my wits end.

This afternoon my brother-in-law and I traveled back to the house for the first time in over a month, as I needed to check on the security of my property and gather some belongings. The house seems relatively untouched, leading me to believe that the creatures' motives were driven by the presence of my family. As you requested, I brought a camera back to the property for the purpose of photographic evidence.

While my home was free of tampering, I was able to find a trail of prints that match the size and shape of those previously left by the creatures on my property. The prints lead into the woods behind my home, following a stream that runs near the mine. My brother-in-law, an avid sportsman, can not identify the tracks despite his skepticism. Perhaps you know of someone better suited to identify these prints.

I will be spending the next two nights in my home and will send more images should the opportunity present itself. I am looking forward to your thoughts.



The Kentucky Goblin Footprint 2012



Kentucky Goblin Footprint 2012

EMAIL 4: THE FINAL CORRESPONDENCE

The creatures came out the woods late last evening. I have enclosed photographs taken to the best of my ability given the situation. I have also enclosed photographs of the creature's footprints alongside a measuring stick. My brother-in-law is not as skeptical as he was when we arrived and we will be leaving before dark this

evening. I look forward to hearing back from you.



Kentucky Goblin Footprint by Ruler



2nd Kentucky Goblin Footprint by Ruler

Also attached to the email were, according to David, several pictures of the "goblins" themselves. At first, they didn't show much more than some blurs in the darkness, but after a run through Photoshop to lighten up the contrast and brighten the image, some strange figures began to appear.

THE PLANET WEIRD INVESTIGATION

The first thing noted about David's story were the striking similarities to a famous case from 1955. The key events were all the same: a rural farmhouse sieged by several small creatures with similar features, a frightened family that fled in the night, and the belief that these "goblins" were extraterrestrial. Hell, it even happened in Kentucky, but we'll get to that in a bit.

The real attention-grabbing pieces of the new Kentucky Goblins case were the photographs David had provided. It isn't hard to see that the footprints are strange. But were they strange because

they were fake? Or were they strange because they were from a previously undiscovered creature? **I posted the clearer of the two images on Week in Weird** and asked for the help of readers in identifying them.

You guys didn't disappoint. Theories ranged anywhere from **wild hog tracks**, bear tracks, three-toed humans (and Sasquatches) to name a few, though my favorite was the reader **who suggested it was a man on stilts with monster feet stuck on the end**. Another reader **sent**



Enhanced image allegedly shows Kentucky Goblin climbing past a tree (2012)



Enhanced image allegedly shows left-facing profile of Kentucky Goblin (2012)

the photo to the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Department, who couldn't identify the print but wouldn't declare it fake either.

Bigfoot hunters were quick to point out that the strange tracks appeared to show dermal ridges, the foot's equivalent of fingerprints. For years, Sasquatch researchers have used the presence of dermal ridges to separate what they believe to be genuine footprints from those that are hoaxed.

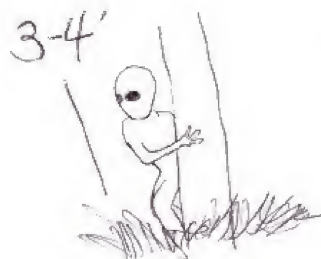


kentuckygoblinanalysis

The images of the goblins themselves left a lot to be desired, but that didn't stop researchers from analyzing them. The best breakdown came from Robyn Montella, who was able to define the narrow shoulders, legs, and downward-left-facing head of what appeared to be a humanoid creature climbing past a tree.

On the flip side, many readers pointed out that the sex of David's dog changed halfway through the story. It's a strange detail that didn't do much to help the case's believability.

THE LOCAL POLICE "CONFIRM" THE GOBLINS' 2012 APPEARANCE



Drawing based on 2012 Kentucky Goblin photo analysis

While I hadn't yet received an exact address from David, the team, which we half-jokingly nicknamed the **Alien Cave Base Task Force**, gathered together, pulled up some satellite imagery of David's town, and set out to pinpoint where his house might be. A quick search of government records showed dozens of abandoned mines within a 10-mile radius of the town, and the maps showed a handful of streams that flowed through a number of properties. The details fit, even if we couldn't pinpoint a single home.

The fact that he mentioned the police in his emails meant that there must be a record of the call. The town was small enough to lack its own police station, so we called

the nearest state police department instead. After a few back and forth transfers, we were told that while they could confirm that they had received and investigated a case very much like this one, they couldn't give us any details.

This was about as good of a confirmation we were going to get.

The rural nature of the town made finding any other information difficult. The police wouldn't help, virtually no information about the community outside of mining records existed online, and the community was so small that no census data had ever been recorded.

At the time, we were based in Canada, so a "quick trip" to investigate a dead-end case was out of the question, and considering that David had been instructed to reach out to us, we weren't comfortable handing the case to someone else without his permission.

David never emailed us again. Whether it was because our contact with the police had somehow gotten back to him, he got tired of perpetrating a hoax, or he was silenced by someone (or something), David disappeared and we'd officially hit a dead end.

Then I received a strange message from Terry Wriste.

TERRY WRISTE MAKES CONTACT

On February 4, 2013, nearly a year after we'd last heard from David, an email arrived from a T. Wriste. It consisted of two sentences.

why did you stop when you were so close?

i have something for you. one wee k.

My response was simply "Who is this?", but the question went unanswered. Exactly one week later, a second email arrived.

[redacted town name] was just a symptom. the ink and black are isolated still and 3rd order m.i.a.

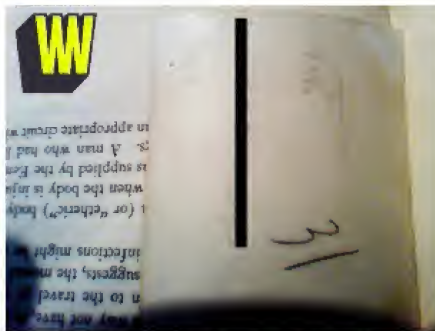
bare in mind for every door closed a wind ow must be opened. the door is closed. the window is open.
use the number s.

This message, though, had an attachment. The file was an image of what looked like an old piece of paper with a string of sixteen scribbled numbers on it. The writing was in pencil, and it all looked old. Also present was a thick black "31", the characters **SLUf** or **SLUf**, and what appears to be **Ka5**. In other words, complete gibberish.

As I had done with the rest of our evidence, I shared the update on Facebook with the same people who had helped us on David's case. It was pointed out that the odd structure of the messages and their references to "black ink" were similar to **the mysterious letters that the late John Keel received from the "International Bankers"** in the 60s. This group would often send cryptic, poorly-worded "warnings" for Keel to cease his investigations into UFO cases.

Stranger still, the letters Keel received from the International Bankers never seemed to require any postage, and may have originated from Vietnam.

But what about the numbers? The sequence had to be a secret code, so we all set to work deciphering the riddle. Letters were matched to



The mysterious numbers from Terry Wriste



Via JohnKeel.com

numbers, morse code taps, and everything in between. For a time, we thought that the numbers might have been a Visa card number, but alas, there was no stash of cash waiting for us.

That's when Robyn pointed out that the numbers could very well be GPS coordinates. I split the sequence straight down the middle and plugged them into Google Earth. When the spinning globe zoomed into its target, I swallowed hard and immediately deleted the post.

The coordinates led to an alien cave base.



Via JohnKeel.com

THE BROWN MOUNTAIN LIGHTS



First known photo of the Brown Mountain Lights snapped by EM Ball

Let's back up about five months.

Around the time that we started investigating the return of the Kentucky Goblins, we were knee-deep in pre-production

for a **documentary web series**. As part of the project, we set out to get ourselves abducted by aliens. I realize how that sounds, but those **who've seen the raw footage at one of my presentations** can attest that it was a successful, and downright terrifying, experiment. That, though, is a story for another time.

During my research in preparation for experiment, I needed to find a good place to actually get abducted by aliens. It had to be a location with a history of regular UFO sightings coupled with more than a few alien abductions. Brown Mountain, North Carolina checked all the boxes, and it was relatively close to the route we'd already plotted for our other shoot dates.

Since before white guys ever showed up on the continent, the Native Americans told stories of the mountain's mysterious lights. When the skies were clear, they'd watch as glowing orbs rose out of the mountain and danced through the treetops. The Native Americans believed that the lights were the souls of revered warriors that lived in mountain; even the earliest white settlers attributed the sightings to phantoms haunting the forest. That all changed **after the 1947 Roswell incident**, and it wasn't long before the mysterious wisps became associated with unidentified flying objects rather than ghosts.

Today, people are still as mystified by the lights as ever. On any given night, you can hike to Wiseman's View and find diverse groups of people waiting for the UFOs to appear, some of them recounting the time the lights hovered just above them or the strange "government men" who would sometimes appear and question them about their experiences. The craziest tale, though, emerged in 1961 from a local furniture salesman who claimed that a race of tiny, extraterrestrial creatures made their home in the mountain.

RALPH LAEL AND THE "ALIEN MUMMY"

Ralph Lael was a normal man with a not-so-simple story. He not only claimed to have proof that Brown Mountain harbored a secret base, but that he had been inside of it.

After following the mysterious Brown Mountain lights through the forest one night, Lael claimed to have stumbled onto a camouflaged entrance into the side of the mountain. When he entered the opening, he was met by creatures from another planet. His family and friends noted that sometimes Lael would disappear for weeks at a time as he explored the intricate maze inside the mountain, and in 1965 he wrote a rare book filled with bizarre details related to his discovery. But he didn't just return from the alien cave base with an unbelievable tale. He returned with the body of one of these creatures.

For a time, Lael kept the body preserved in a glass case which he stored in the back room of his Brown Mountain Rock Shop. The tiny mummy had a length of about three feet, lacked any hair, and possessed long, thin extremities. When Ralph Lael died, his shop was mysteriously bulldozed to the ground and the "alien mummy" disappeared.

Today, only one known photo of the creature's body exists.

While Lael's story could easily be chalked up to the over-the-top sci-fi tales to emerge from that time period, the rumors of a secret base inside of Brown Mountain continued to persist. In fact, to this day locals will tell you that the sight of black helicopters and covert "training missions" in the nearby forest are the result of a secret base hidden in the mountain.



ONLY KNOWN PHOTO OF THE "ALIEN MUMMY"

Only known photo of Ralph Lae's "Alien Mummy"

and truth be told, neither were we, but in the interest of a fun adventure (and a possible alien abduction), we met Micah at the base of the mountain and set off in search of the hidden cave. When I asked Micah how he'd heard of the secret entrance, he smiled big, leaned in, and half-whispered so everyone in the van could hear.

"A psychic predicted it."

As we hiked into the forest, Micah laid out the vision that predicted natural pillars pointing to the sky on the side of Brown Mountain, well off the beaten path. Below these stone pillars, the psychic said, sits the entrance to a cave. To the casual explorer, the cave looks like any other, but deep inside it would hold a secret passage that would lead deep into the mountain and if followed, eventually open up into a facility that housed extraterrestrial technology.



The entrance to the alleged "Brown Mountain Alien Cave Base"

THE ALIEN CAVE BASE ON BROWN MOUNTAIN

Here's where things start to get a little weird.

After I'd decided that Brown Mountain was to be home base for our alien abduction attempt, I contact my good friend **Micah Hanks**, a UFO researcher and North Carolina native who knows the area like the back of his hand. Not only was Hanks nice enough to offer his expertise on the subject, he shared a secret with us: he knew where the entrance to this fabled alien cave base was supposed to be located, and he'd take us there, cameras in tow.

In October of 2012, we set off for Brown Mountain.

Micah was clearly not entirely on board with the alien cave base theory, and truth be told, neither were we, but in the interest of a fun adventure (and a possible alien abduction), we met Micah at the base of the mountain and set off in search of the hidden cave. When I asked Micah how he'd heard of the secret entrance, he smiled big, leaned in, and half-whispered so everyone in the van could hear.

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So there were were, five people trekking through the North Carolina wilderness in search of a secret alien cave base predicted by a psychic. Why? So that we might possibly film an alien abduction. The absurdity wasn't lost on us, and as we stopped to catch our breath after one of our crew nearly tumbled down a treacherous cliff, we shared a good laugh about what we were doing. Then Micah pointed out the stone pillars in the distance, and the chuckling stopped.

There it was, a large cave tucked below natural stone pillars, its entrance hidden from view by the surrounding forest. Whether we believed in the stories of a secret base or not, the hundred-yard dash to the entrance was the fastest we'd traveled during the entire hike.



Weekin' Weird's Greg Newkirk and Dana Matthews descend into the alleged "alien cave base" with Ufologist Micah Hanks (2012)

We followed the faint trail into the cave opening, but were abruptly met with an obstacle. A massive, smooth stone slab was blocking our path. It was clear that the giant slab wasn't part of the mountain itself, and looked almost as if it had been placed there.

Through the small gaps between the giant stone and the cave wall, we could see that the

opening continued into the mountain, but try as we might, we could neither budge the massive slab nor squeeze through a gap. If this was the secret entrance to an alien cave base, we couldn't find the lever. Trust me, we looked.

We spent the rest of the night at Wiseman's View, watching the Brown Mountain lights rise up from the mountain and dance through the trees.

BACK TO THE GPS COORDINATES

As I sat in my office, staring at the pin on Google Earth, I began to slowly process what I was seeing. The scribbled numbers were definitely GPS coordinates, and they were sending an intentional message. You see, these coordinates didn't just lead to North Carolina, they led to Brown Mountain. In fact, they appeared to lead to the very same cave entrance we'd visited five months earlier.

As you might imagine, I started to get more than a bit paranoid. Despite keeping our exact whereabouts top secret during our film shoot, someone knew where we had been... and what we were looking for.

The question was, what did a mountain located in another state, hundreds of miles away, have to do with the return of the Kentucky Goblins?

Terry Wriste never emailed again.

TERRY WRISTE AND THE MEN IN BLACK

The email from Wriste spooked me, so I decided to get in touch with the only other person, aside from David, who I know had been in touch with him: Allen Greenfield. Greenfield had conducted the original alien cave base interview with Terry Wriste in his 1995 book *Secret Cipher of the Ufonauts*.

I tracked down an old email address for Greenfield, attached an overview of the case, and hoped for the best. Several days later, I received a response.

Terry was a friend of mine for many years. By the same token, I haven't heard from him since the middle 1990s. "Terry" was a pseudonym he came up with which he no longer uses, AFAIK. I advise far more caution due to cave ins, mine gases etc. Such locations are for real experts, and there are safer ways to make contact. I hope your friend stayed out of the mine. Ky has had "little men" stuff since at least the 1950s. The best approach is one of detachment. If theft is involved, lock up good, but one should cultivate not being afraid – fear intensifies their "power" – indifference dis-empowers them. See my book SECRET CIPHER OF THE UFONAUTS, "Law of the Battle of Conquest" chapter.

Just stay out of mines and caves. Dangerous – on-site investigation is best confined to the household being allegedly victimized. Treat it like an apparition case or a poltergeist case – the overlap between such cases is greater than most conventional ufologists usually think. They are in fact differing perceptions of the same thing, IMHO.

If you have further questions, write me.

Cordially,
Allen

Now that I knew I was speaking to Allen, I went ahead and sent him my correspondence with David, Terry Wriste, some evidence from the case, and noted my concerns that someone might be sending me on a wild goose chase after the disturbing find with the GPS coordinates and the alien cave base.

Well, I never underestimate some people's desire to get attention or just accomplish a good hoax, but, still, it does sound like a case at least worth taking seriously. I have been quite frustrated by the gradual move from serious paranormal field investigations and, for that matter, scholarly research to t.v. style ghost hunting.

[Wriste] is much younger than me – I'd guess he's pushing 50. But he isn't a "man of mystery" per se. UFOs were an occasional side interest to him when I knew him. I sat him down for three interviews in the early 1990s – two have been published and relate to UFOlogy. The other, from our common political radical days, which, imo, where his heart is, and was of no interest to UFOlogists and a bit hot to handle as political rhetoric. I do know his "street name": but, like everybody I knew in that era, we all had noms de guerre, and our code of honor was never to associate our 'real' names with our nom de guerre, which I have continued to honor, though most of us have long since ceased to be street activists.

I'd be inclined to think [the Terry Wriste you're speaking to] is more of a "man in black" than the Terry I know.

On one of my visits [to Brown Mountain]- frankly I don't remember which one – this nicely dressed local guy (supposedly) came to my motel room for no apparent reason other than to 'warn' me that Lael was 'a local moonshiner'. At the time it seemed very normal if a bit unexpected. He identified himself, but his name disappeared from my memory. It was probably my poking around in a rural area that brought him to me, to uphold local pride or whatever – but who knows? Maybe he was a "man in black" — a thought that didn't strike me until years later. He knew where I was, what I was there for and wanted to in some fashion discredit the local contactee. The primary phenomenon – the Brown Mountain Lights – is real, whatever that may mean.

Emails from the Men in Black? So much for untangling the threads.

THE HOPKINSVILLE GOBLINS CONNECTION

On the evening of August 21, 1955, residents of a rural farmhouse near Hopkinsville, Kentucky **were terrorized by a group of small creatures unlike anything the world had seen before**. The farmhouse residents, the Sutton family and their out-of-town guests, described the beings as standing around three feet tall, hairless, and having long, thin limbs that appeared almost in a state of atrophy. Their "skin" appeared to be a shiny, grey color, and their large eyes glowed in the dark. Their most distinguishable feature, though, were their large "ears". The small humanoids moved as though they were "wading through water", and on a few occasions, appeared to defy gravity altogether.

The creatures came out the nearby forest and began peering into their windows or appearing in their doorways, sending their children into hysterics. Shotguns and hunting rifles seemingly had little effect on the goblins, which only rattled like "tin cans" before fleeing into the surrounding woods. Once the siege had come to an apparent end, the family raced to their cars and went straight to the local police station to plea for help. Noting how visibly shaken the family was, the sheriff and twenty officers accompanied the family back to the home,



Illustration from the Pennyroyal Museum in Hopkinsville Kentucky

where they themselves witnessed strange lights, sounds, and signs of a gun battle, though the goblins were never seen again.



An original sketch of the Kentucky Goblins and their craft (1955)

In all, eleven people were involved in the siege on the farmhouse, with nearly two dozen police officers responding to the scene, confirming a gun battle and a number of strange anomalies. Of those eleven people, eight stood by the story for the rest of their lives. The three remaining witnesses, now elderly, refuse to speak about that night.

ALIEN LEGACY: CONNECTING THE DOTS

After three years of slowly, occasionally piecing together the ever-stranger clues in the return of the Kentucky Goblins, I was sent a book titled

Alien Legacy via my friend and colleague, Jeff Walldridge. It was an account of the original Hopkinsville Goblins case that came straight from the horse's mouth. The author was Geraldine Sutton-Stith, daughter of Lucky Sutton, one of the two men who actually fired on the creatures in 1955. After Lucky passed away in 1995, Geraldine had taken it upon herself to carry on the story of what happened to her family that night, clearing up pop-culture misconceptions and providing often-overlooked details about the case. *Alien Legacy* was the result.

On September 30, I finally got Geraldine on the phone to discuss the parallels between her family's case and the 2012 case in the hopes that it might rattle some things loose. It worked. While we both thought the similarities between the cases were certainly chilling, it was the odd differences between the encounters that struck us as particularly intriguing.

The most obvious difference between the 1955 and 2012 cases were in the description of the creatures themselves. Both descriptions included a size of 3-4 feet in height, hairless grey skin, and a featureless face. In 1955, though, the beings had eyes that appeared to glow in the dark, and their most recognizable feature (one that went on to inspire the design of the titular *Gremlins* in the 80's films) were their large pointy "ears". David's description lacked the ears and had "oily black" eyes.



Ufologist Ivan Sanderson shows a size comparison of a human vs. the goblins (via JohnKeel.com)

Ufologist Ivan Sanderson shows a size comparison of a human vs. the goblins (via JohnKeel.com)

The Sutton family believed that the strange creatures they encountered came from the sky, and most believers tended to agree.

Geraldine mentioned that several years ago, a man knocked on her door in order to share his father's deathbed confession. The man's father claimed that on the night the Sutton farmhouse was besieged by the goblins, he was part a team sent from nearby Fort Campbell to retrieve the wreckage from a UFO that had crashed just three miles down the road, the debris of which was hauled straight to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base.

David, on the other hand, believed that the creatures he encountered were coming from underground.

The Sutton Goblins moved as though they were wading through thick water, even appearing to defy gravity and hover above the ground, leaving no trace. In 2012, the goblins appeared to "hop" as they moved, leaving three-toed footprints in the mud and snow.

"Humor me," I said, "but what if the creatures' ears weren't actually ears at all? What if they were part of a helmet? In fact, what if the creatures were in some kind of a suit? It would make sense of the glowing eyes and the tin-can sound when Lucky and Billy Ray shot at them. Heck, that might even account for the strange movement. A hopping motion isn't so much different from wading through water..."

The pieces were starting to fit, even if we were jamming some of them into place, but wasn't until I mentioned Wriste's coordinates to the Brown Mountain cave base that things started to really click. Geraldine mentioned that there were some similar stories emerging from Eastern Kentucky throughout the years, tales of a mountain with hidden base, a hush-hush military presence, and mysterious lights in the surrounding sky.

"People who live there see all kinds of strange things – creatures, lights – they even talk about feeling the mountain 'humming' sometimes," she told me. "People go missing, never to be seen again up there. It's called Black Mountain, but they used to call it Lynch Mountain."

I used my free hand to punch the name into Google Maps and immediately started to laugh.

"You're never gonna believe this, Geraldine," I said. "Black Mountain is literally just down the road from the 2012 goblin sightings."

The connection to Brown Mountain was suddenly a lot more clear, and it wasn't long before the conversation turned back to Hopkinsville. But if the 1955 case and the 2012 were actually related, how could something that was seen in Hopkinsville disappear and pop up hundreds of miles away sixty years later?



Isogui – an offering of fresh fruit from the same tree

Ebó is a ritual offering or sacrifice as dictated by divination. Ebó is one of the cornerstones of the Santeria religion, and it is the tool that we have been given by the Orishas to change our fate and return our lives to a balanced and healthy state.

Ebo takes many forms. It can be an offering of fresh fruits, ritual baths, offerings of cooked foods, undergoing initiation, receiving an orisha, or animal sacrifice to name a few. In every case, ebó is marked through divination (either through obí divination, diloggun divination or Ifá divination) as the required remedy to bring a person out of an

unbalanced place and put them back into a state of balance. A properly recommended ebo can create miraculous change in a person's life, and it can literally turn their life course in a new direction.

Addimu (Cooked Offerings)

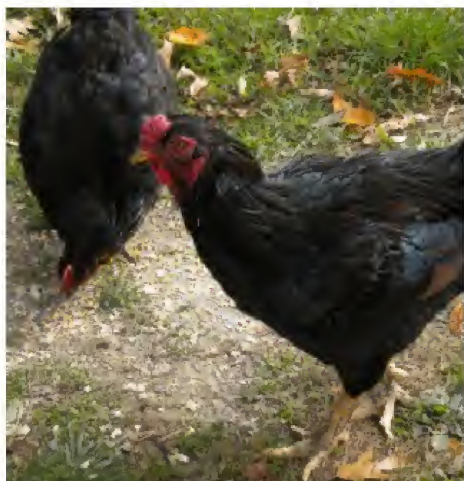
Addimús are cooked foods that are token offerings of love and thanks to the orishas or to the ancestors. These are typically foods that the Lucumi (Lukumi) people ate in their diet. There are a slew of addimús that a diviner can mark for a person to offer, but each orisha typically likes a certain set of foods. While Chango might like amalá ilá (cooked cornmeal and okra), Oyá might like a nice chocolate pudding. Traditional addimus include black eyed pea fritters, corn tamales, balls of toasted wheat flour and condensed milk, boiled ñame root, or ochinchín (an egg scramble made with shrimp and greens). Addimús must be marked in divination and then placed beside the orisha with a prayer of offering and thanks. At the Santeria Church of the Orishas we prepare addimus for clients and place them on our orisha shrines. This is a simple service that is done in conjunction with diloggun divination in our church.

Isogui (Fruit offerings)

Another form of ebó is to offer the orishas their favorite fresh fruits. Typically these are best if all picked from the same tree – or (the modern day equivalent) purchased in the same store. Each orisha has fruits that are their favorite. Isogui should be marked through divination as with all other ebbos, but they can be given as a token of the heart as well. Fruits are always a safe bet when making offerings to the orishas. If you visit our church and want to bring an offering for the orishas, fruits are probably the best choice but ask one of our pastors before deciding what to bring.

Eyebale (Blood sacrifice)

Occasionally a major ebó will require blood sacrifice. This is one of the more controversial parts of the Santeria faith, but we want to demystify the practice for those who may not



Animals deserve to be treated ethically prior to sacrifice.

understand its function. Within Santeria blood sacrifice is only done with the kinds of animals you'd find on a farm: chickens, roosters, goats, sheep, pigeons, etc. It is a required part of any initiation (Elekes, Warriors, Orisha Addimú, Kariocha) and without blood sacrifice you do not have the presence of the orishas in that ritual, and you do not have a legitimate consecration. This is an ancient and traditional practice upheld by the culture bearers of our religion and is not something that can be excluded in said rituals.

Animal sacrifice is something that should be done with great respect to the animal, making sure they are given plenty of food and water as well as room to move about while in holding prior to the ritual. The sacrifice method

commonly used in Santeria involves the severing of the carotid arteries with a knife to cause the animal to pass out before it dies. This is one of the most humane ways of killing an animal and is nearly identical to the way animals are handled with Kosher and Halal religious slaughter techniques. Most often the animals for major initiations are then butchered and the meat is cooked and shared with the community. The orishas or ancestors eat the blood, and the people eat the meat. It is an act of communion with the spirits.

This serious ebó is done when it is absolutely necessary. At the Santeria Church of the Orishas, we try to find simpler solutions like addimus before resorting to eyebale. Eyebale (Animal Sacrifice) is a legally protected form of religious practice according to the decision by the Supreme Court of the United States in the 1993 case of The Church of Lukumi Babalu Aye vs. the City of Hialeah. Our church action committee, SAFE – Santeros Against Fraud and Exploitation, takes a strong stance on the ethical treatment of animals prior to sacrifice and adherence to proper ritual slaughter of animals.

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Rogue Picnic Tables Menace The Streets Of Australia

Whitney Meers

Posted: 11/18/2015 09:04 AM EST

huffingtonpost.com

Officers think this behavior is a few sandwiches short of a picnic.

Police in Perth in Western Australia are on the lookout for a group of rebels who've been skirting around town on motorized picnic tables... and finding them is no picnic.

A status posted on Western Australia Police's Facebook page shows images of the rolling tables and warns cruising around on them could be dangerous.

"Scarborough Police are currently investigating the use of motorised picnic tables that have been seen travelling in the Scarborough Beach area," the status said.



Western Australia Police

"Police are concerned for the safety of those riding on the tables with no protective clothing, especially when on roads alongside motor vehicles. There are overall safety concerns particularly if a traffic incident was to occur, resulting in the persons subjecting themselves to potential injury."



Western Australia Police

The department is warning that those found on these contraptions could face charges that include driving an unlicensed vehicle, driving an unroadworthy vehicle and drink driving (that's drunk driving to you Americans)

In the status, police also said they are reviewing footage to identify those involved with the rogue picnic tables.



Western Australia Police

The update currently has more than 41,000 likes and 18,000 shares.

“There are overall safety concerns particularly if a traffic incident was to occur, resulting in the persons subjecting themselves to potential injury,” a police spokesman told Perth Now.

A YouTube video posted by user Caleb Bloomer shows nine people

sitting at two different picnic tables, which then roll down the street and around a corner as cars drive by.

Should the picnic table pranksters be busted, this wouldn't be the first time someone got in trouble after riding these unique motorized vehicles.

In 2012, the Toronto Sun reported on a man in London, Ontario, who faced charges after constructing a motorized picnic table from a lawnmower motor and customized wheels. He and his friends then rode around on it, allegedly with an open container of alcohol.

However, in that incident, the man's charge was limited to having an open container in a public place after officers found the table parked on a sidewalk.

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Russia declares war on cheese - CNN.com

By Matthew Chance, CNN Updated 2006 GMT (0306 HKT) August 20, 2015
2015-08-20T19:06:08Z

cnn.com

Russia declares war on cheese, cracks down on "dairy mafia"



The Russian government has banned the import of Western cheese, and authorities are cracking down on those who break the law.

- Russian authorities are cracking down on Western foodstuffs, banned in response to sanctions over Ukraine
- Contraband fruit, meat and poultry has all been seized and destroyed – despite an outcry from the public, angry at the waste of food
- In the latest case, six people were arrested in Moscow on suspicion of cheese smuggling

Moscow (CNN)Police in Russia say they have smashed a major smuggling ring, arresting a gang suspected of trafficking in dangerous contraband at gunpoint. The goods in question aren't drugs or weapons, though, but cheese.

Some 470 tons of the stuff, to be precise, worth an estimated \$30 million and, according to authorities, a risk to the health of the cheese-eating Russian public.

It's just the latest episode in Russia's war on Western food.

The crackdown has seen local authorities taking a no-nonsense approach to the hard-line Kremlin decree banning illegally imported food from the West, in response to Western sanctions on Russia over its involvement in Ukraine.

Many are filming their efforts to eradicate forbidden foodstuffs.



<img alt="Russian authorities burn banned food" class="media__image"

src="http://i2.cdn.turner.com/cnnnext/dam/assets/150806

Russian authorities burn banned food

Since regulations were introduced, state television and the internet have been filled with one shaky video after another showing all forms of destruction, from crushing to binning and even burning.

In one video posted online, uniformed inspectors in Tatarstan, central Russia, are shown impounding three frozen geese in a small village

As witnesses look on, an officer reads out the charges: the birds, imported from Hungary, have improper documents and are labeled incorrectly, she reports, making them illegal under Russian law.

The geese are later shown being buried in a landfill.

In another, posted by authorities in the Leningradsky region, near St. Petersburg, umbrella-wielding officials brag about "liquidating" 19 tons of peaches.

The fruit, said to have fraudulent papers, is shown being smashed to a pulp long into the night, even as thunder and lightning rages all around the landfill site.

With Russia in the depths of an economic crisis, the images have provoked a strong reaction, especially as the ban on Western food has led to higher prices in supermarkets across the country.

Many Russians are bitterly opposed to all the waste: a recent petition against food destruction was signed by hundreds of thousands of people. It called for any products seized to be distributed to the needy, to pensioners and the unemployed.

But the authorities, usually sensitive to a public outcry, remain undeterred; if anything, they've been stepping up their efforts.

The story of a ban on brie, an edict against Edam and a crackdown on Camembert may seem ripe for jokes, but in Russia it's no laughing matter - authorities are taking their "war on cheese" -- and selected other foods -- very seriously indeed.

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San Simon, the Guatemalan saint who loves drinking, smoking and women

lordsoftthedrinks.com

August 13, 2014 by Micky Bumbar (Lords of the Drinks)



A classic statue of San Simon with a cigarette on the lip and a big glass in front of him.

It's often said that heavy drinking and religion don't really mix. No matter if we are talking about Muslims who claim alcohol is forbidden in their religion or Christians who refuse to drink the metaphoric blood of Jesus. The common trend is the less intoxication the better. Well not in Guatemala. Besides the usual crosses and statues of the holy Mary in this Catholic country you will find many shrines of San Simon. His statues don't wear a mitre but a cowboy hat and sunglasses. A cigarette in his mouth and a glass in front of him. Because San Simon is the patron of all who love drinking, smoking and womanizing and he is very popular in Guatemala.

Since there are two stories about San Simon it's likely that we are dealing with an old Mayan tradition that became an established ritual within the Catholic church of Guatemala. Just like the Christmas tree, a ritual that originates from old pagan tribes in Northern Europe, has little to do with the birth of Jesus Christ. In the common version San Simon was a Catholic priest who was such a heavy drinker, smoker and womanizer that he got excommunicated. Others say this is just the Spanish interpretation of the legend of a Mayan shaman named Maximon.



San Simon is very well loved in Guatemala.

Let's start with the legend of San Simon. This Catholic priest lived 200 to 300 years ago in a town called Zunil. He confessed his religion in the style of Fryer Tuck from the tales of Robin Hood. Which meant the word abstinence was not in his dictionary. But even with all his drinking and womanizing Simon never forgot his first duty as a priest: helping people. If people didn't have a roof over their head they could spend the night in his church and he was very well loved by his community. When the Catholic church heard

about Simon's unholy behavior, he was excommunicated. He then built his own church which got more popular than the Catholic one. It became such a threat that his former employer destroyed Simon's church, leaving him homeless. But the people of Zunil were more than happy to give him a roof over his head, like he had provided to so many. For the rest of his days Simon stayed among his people living his eccentric lifestyle.

The other explanation is that Simon in real life was actually named Maximon and lived 500 years ago. This was a traveling shaman who loved to drink the local moonshine cusha. He

too lived quite an extravagant lifestyle, although this was more about drinking than smoking and womanizing. The people forgave him gladly because he worked hard and did many good deeds to improve their lives.

Whatever the truth is, nowadays the shrines of San Simon are places where people come to pray and leave gifts. Besides the usual candles and flowers you will find packages of cigarettes and bottles of booze next to the statue of this bad ass saint. Also you will find many people (or mostly men) sitting around the shrine drinking and smoking to honor San Simon. Seems like after "St. Tryphon the Drunkard" we have a new favorite saint. Salud San Simon!

Micky Bumbar

Check out more Historical Stories and Mythical Tales

This entry was posted in Folklore and Mythology, Theology and Alcohol and tagged alcohol, booze, Catholic church, Christianity, Cushman, drinking, eccentric, extravagant, Guatemala, Guatemalan saint, holy, holy man, Islam, legend, Maximon, Maya, Maya culture, moonshine, myth, pagan, religion, saint, San Simon, smoking, womanizer, womanizing. Bookmark the permalink.

10 thoughts on "San Simon, the Guatemalan saint who loves drinking, smoking and women"

1. PorterGirl says:

August 13, 2014 at 10:32 am

This sort of religion I could really get interested in. Drinking and smoking to honour San Simon? Consider me devoted :)

• lordsofthedrinks says:

August 13, 2014 at 10:38 am

Suddenly life in a monastery doesn't seem too bad. Let's pray as many times a day as possible! :D

Cheers,

Micky

■ PorterGirl says:

August 13, 2014 at 11:16 am

I will be praying doubly hard this friday and saturday night ;)

■ lordsofthedrinks says:

August 13, 2014 at 11:31 am

Amen! :D

2. Ladies Chillout Lounge (www.ladieschillout.com) says:

August 15, 2014 at 2:22 pm

This is awesome! I'm going out to a martini lounge tonight and have my own little homage to Saint Simon and his "unholy" behavior! LOL

- lordsofthedrinks says:

August 15, 2014 at 2:35 pm

Nice nice! I am gonna drink beer, wine and rakia. Let's make San Simon proud.

Cheers!

Micky

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Saturday, May 9, 2015

Scenes from the Murder of Mary E. Hill.

On November 22, 1868, the body of Mrs. Mary E. Hill was found on the ground outside of her Philadelphia residence. It did not take the police long to realize that she had been beaten to death and her corpse thrown out of a second story window. Following the verdict of the coroner's jury, *Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper* published a full page of illustrations depicting the people, places, and events involved in the crime.

Murder by Gaslight has already covered this case in detail here: **Cheating the Gallows**. Following is a pictorial summary of the murder, using Frank Leslie's illustrations.

About four years before the murder, Mary Hill's daughter Camilla married George Twitchell and moved to Philadelphia where Twitchell started a produce business.

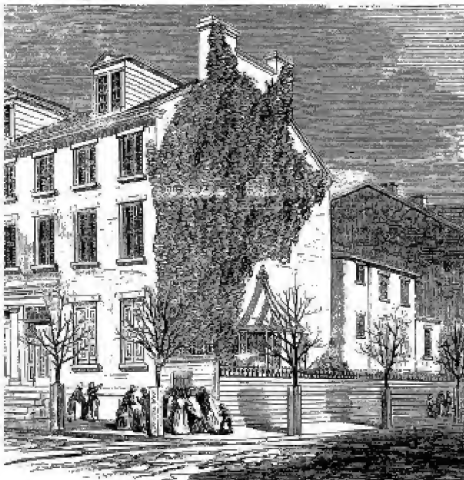


George S. Twitchell



Camilla Hill Twitchell

When Twitchell's business failed, the couple moved in with Camilla's mother, a wealthy widow with a large house on the corner of Tenth and Pine Streets in Philadelphia. Outwardly, the arrangement seemed amiable, but Twitchell and Mrs. Hill were constantly arguing about money.

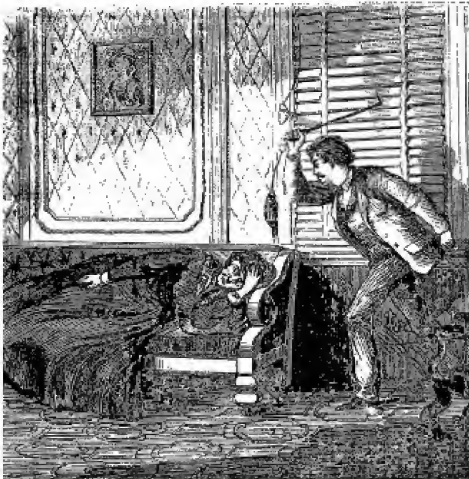


The Residence of Mary E. Hill, Corner of 10th and Pine Streets, Philadelphia
While coming home from church, the night of November 22, 1868, Sarah Campbell, a servant girl, found the body of Mrs. Hill, lying on the brick pavement outside the house.



Finding the Body of Mary Hill.

Twitchell first claimed that Mrs. Hill had accidentally fallen out of the second story window, but when police investigated, it became obvious that she had been beaten to death in the dining room, the body was dragged to the sitting room and thrown out the window.



The Murder of Mrs. Hill



Throwing the Body Out the Window.

Twitchell said the murder must have been done by burglars after the money that Mrs. Hill

always carried in the bosom of her dress. The police believed that Twitchell, himself, killed Mrs. Hill and arrested him at the house.



The Arrest of George Twitchell.

Coroner's jury agreed with the police and George Twitchell was indicted for the murder of Mary Hill.

Read the rest of the story here: **Cheating the Gallows.**

Source:

"The Murder of Mrs. M. E. Hill, at her Residence in Philadelphia, November 22d." *Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper* 12 Dec 1868.

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Schweini gets Chinese Nazi doll doppelgänger

The Local · 22 Oct 2015, 09:30

Published: 22 Oct 2015 09:30
GMT+02:00

A Hong Kong firm is selling plastic Nazi soldiers with a striking resemblance to one of Germany's most famous footballers - World Cup-winning captain Bastian Schweinsteiger. Pure coincidence, the company insists, as they believe "all Germans look like that".

The pearly white teeth are the same, so are the wrinkles around his eyes

when he smiles. And the neat side-parted haircut is unmistakable – it can only be German national football captain Bastian Schweinsteiger.

But there's something different about him. Instead of sporting Die Mannschaft's white shirt, with a newly emblazoned fourth star to commemorate victory in Brazil in 2014, Schweinsteiger is wearing a Wehrmacht uniform.



The Bastian Schweinsteiger Nazi figurine. Photo: Screenshot www.did.co

Photo: Screenshot www.did.co

In his hand, instead of a football or the world cup, the toy soldier which company DiD sell under the name 'Bastian' is carrying a metal military supplies box.

But the company insist the resemblance is a complete coincidence.

"We don't sell any figures which resemble footballers. It is a complete coincidence that the figure 'Bastian' looks like Schweinsteiger," a spokesperson told Bild newspaper.

The confusion lies in the typically German features of the Germany captain, the firm insisted.

"We think that all Germans look like that," the spokesperson said, pointing out that the fact that they have the same name has little significance.

"Bastian is a very common name in Germany," the spokesperson said.

But this logic seems to have fallen on deaf ears in north England where Schweinsteiger earns his living for Manchester United. The midfielder has told Bild he is already preparing legal action against the company.

Asides from the Wehrmacht soldier, the company also sell British and American soldiers as well as a figure called "John Chicago Gangster" which bears a striking – but no doubt coincidental – resemblance to Johnny Depp.

Sea monster battle. 1922.

Posted by metan on January 11, 2013

Posted in: Forteana, old newspapers, sea monsters.

Tagged: 1922, Africa, battle, Captain Poole, history, Sea

Monsters, swordfish, whales. 6 Comments

I haven't written about sea monsters for a while so when I found this article I just had to share it with you.

In 1922 a ship steaming along the west coast of Africa found itself entering an area where a terrific battle seemed to have taken place.

Captain Poole described what he saw;

"The sea was for miles blood-red; it took over an hour to get through the battle area. On the surface were some hundreds of whales all of them having suffered in the struggle. Some were just able to move slowly along; few, if any, could move quickly."

None of the sailors knew what had caused the carnage, but suspected that the whales had been attacked by swordfish.

Can you imagine what it would take to cause such a massive and terrible scene? Miles of blood-red sea and hundreds of dead whales is certainly a sight that would be hard to forget.

I am not sure if whales and swordfish are usually deadly enemies though, I thought that only sharks or killer whales attacked whales.

A little more looking around and I found an article from the Wanganui Chronicle in New Zealand from 1908 about a battle witnessed by sailors between a swordfish and a whale with a calf.

After much thrashing about the whale managed to use its tail to stun the huge swordfish who was then hauled on board the nearby boat and taken off to Auckland to be frozen.

I wonder what kind of horrific battle (sharks, Orcas, swordfish...?) there was to have left such carnage in the path of Captain Poole's ship. Imagine if they had sailed through the area a little earlier and been caught up in it. Perhaps there would have been no-one left to tell the tale... -

Sea Monsters Fight.

There are terrible wars sometimes among animals in a state of nature as well as among men in the state called civilisation. A ship steaming the other day along the West Coast of Africa ran through a battle-field covered with blood and with the bodies of numberless combatants, dead and dying. A British Commissioner in the Gold Coast Colony, Captain Poole, has described the scene. The sea was for miles blood-red; it took over an hour to get through the battle area. On the surface were some hundreds of whales all of them having suffered in the struggle. Some were just able to move slowly along; few, if any, could move quickly." Whether the whales had been fighting among themselves, or whether they had been attacked by swordfish, could not be discovered for certain. The crew of the ship supposed that swordfish had been at work. These could inflict terrible wounds in the flesh of the whales, and the unfortunate whales would have no weapons to oppose to the blades of their quiet moving adversaries. Captain Poole said it was thought on board that the exposure of red with blood must mean that many more whales than were visible had perished. No one in the ship had seen, or even heard of anything approaching such a spectacle.

When appealing to the masses,
Brains plus pens provide the links—
Paste a poster on Parnassus,
Tear a stencil on the Sphinx! *
Let no sentimental reason
From advertisement allure.
Tell the world in every season
About Woods' Great Peppermint Cure,

Kilmore Free Press 6 Jul

1922<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article57945283>

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6 comments on "Sea monster battle. 1922."

Carl D'Agostino

on January 11, 2013 at 12:12 am said:

My divorce was worse.

metan

on January 11, 2013 at 12:17 am said:

Horrific battles, wading through blood, barely any survivors.... I bet the neighbours were happy when it was over! ;)

lorddavidprosser

on January 11, 2013 at 1:44 am said:

But the lawyers were rubbing their hands together.

metan

on January 11, 2013 at 11:11 am said:

Hands, or claws...? ;)

(Hope you are feeling better today)

Candy Korman

on January 12, 2013 at 6:48 am said:

Wild sea battles!

metan

on January 12, 2013 at 9:34 am said:

It would have been a frightening thing to stumble into that's for sure!

Saturday, November 21, 2015

by Native News Online Staff / Currents / 18 Nov 2015



ChilkatRobe

Seller takes loss to send robe home

Published November 18, 2015

JUNEAU — Sealaska Heritage Institute (SHI) has acquired a sacred Chilkat robe from an ebay seller, who willingly took a loss on the transaction so the piece could be repatriated to the Tlingit, Haida and Tsimshian.

Staff moved quickly to raise funds and negotiate a lower price than the top bid with the seller, George Blucker, who in the end felt compelled to return it to its original owners,

said SHI President Rosita Worl.

“We’ve watched in sorrow before as our sacred objects at auction have commanded prices beyond our reach. But this time we were able to quickly raise some funds, and we were dealing with a very honorable seller,” Worl said.

“All of the stars aligned, and now the Chilkat robe is coming home.”

Tribal members alerted SHI about the auction on Monday, Nov. 16. SHI was able to raise the reserve amount of \$14,500 through donors, and staff contacted the seller, imploring him to sell the robe to SHI at the reserve price and immediately end the auction, given the significance of the piece. The sale was scheduled to close on Nov. 18, and staff was concerned the price would soar at the end of the auction, as is typical of bidding on ebay. Twelve buyers had already bid up the price to \$10,000 and one person bid \$20,000, then retracted it. Similar robes have sold for upwards of \$30,000 at auction.

Blucker is an artist and for many years, he and his late wife, Jude, took a keen interest in Native American philosophies and art. After researching SHI and learning that the robe was sacred, he opted to sell at the reserve price.

“When I found out that it had religious significance and it had a spiritual presence, that’s when I thought I would put it where it should go,” said Blucker, who has since received messages from buyers who were peeved that the auction ended early and who were prepared to pay a high price.

“This is unheard of,” Worl said. “It is remarkable that a seller would take a loss to do the right thing and repatriate a sacred object to the tribes. We are indebted to him for his noble act of kindness.”

Blucker purchased the robe at a flea market in Illinois approximately 25 years ago.

“I saw the blanket lying on top of a VW bus and at first I thought it had to be a fake,” said Blucker, who holds a master’s of fine arts and has worked in art conservation. “But I knew it could not be a fake with that kind of weaving—who could fake that?”

The flea market seller told Blucker he had bought it at an estate sale in the 1980s. The robe was acquired by a grandfather of the estate’s heirs. The grandfather had traveled to the Yukon gold rush in the late 1800s to seek his fortune and came home with the robe.

The robe appears to be a funerary object because of the frayed edges at the top where it may have been attached to a plank and fixture that was placed above a gravesite. It is a Raven design, but there is no record associating it with a clan or community. It measures just over five feet wide. The fraying has made the weft and warp visible, which will allow artists to examine the materials and technique the weaver used. SHI plans to convene a group of weavers to study the robe.

The institute in May moved into its new building, which has a state-of-the-art, climate-controlled space to preserve the robe and to prevent further deterioration. People who opt to sell pieces under value to a nonprofit may be able to recoup losses if they get the piece appraised by a certified art appraiser prior to the sale.

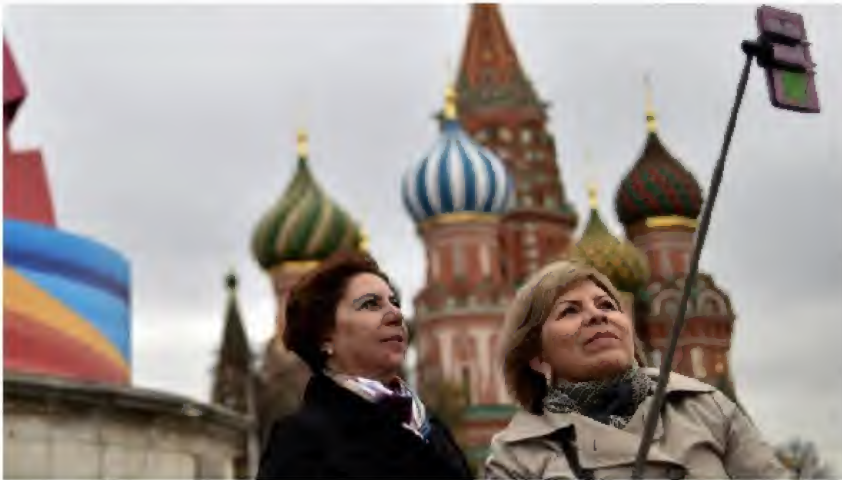
Sealaska Heritage Institute is a private, nonprofit founded in 1980 to promote cultural diversity and cross-cultural understanding. The institute is governed by a Board of Trustees and guided by a Council of Traditional Scholars. Its mission is to perpetuate and enhance Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian cultures of Southeast Alaska.

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By News from Elsewhere... ..as found by BBC Monitoring

• 13 November 2015



A selfie stick can get a better photo, but marks the user out as a tourist

Russians who use selfie sticks to take photographs of themselves are being offered a self-defence course in case they are mugged, it's been reported.

The act of flaunting an expensive smartphone on the end of a stick can mark somebody out as a tourist, turning them into a target for robbery, and that's why one martial arts centre in Moscow

has decided to act, the Lenta news portal says. Daria Lapshina of the M-Profi martial arts centre in the Russian capital told the M24 website that tourists have been the target for attacks in many countries "and the only means of defence that all travellers have is the selfie stick". Calling the new self-defence "art" mpd-fight (monopod fight), the organisers claim that it is effective against practitioners of boxing, wrestling, mixed martial arts and other types of fighting, and can be learned in five lessons, M24 reports.

The selfie stick - a handheld extension pole which allows users to take a photo of themselves from greater than arm's length - has become a bone of contention at tourist attractions around the world. In July, Disney banned the devices from its parks around the world, citing "safety concerns", while football grounds and sports arenas prohibit them as they could be a nuisance to other visitors. It's not known if proponents of mpd-fight will be able to use their skills in places where the sticks are banned.

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By Ben Fractenberg, Gustavo Solis and Leslie Albrecht | March 4, 2014 5:00pm



Prospect Park Goat Head

PARK SLOPE — A severed goat head was discovered in Prospect Park on Monday, park officials confirmed.

The animal body part was found Monday when David Rabig was strolling in a wooded area about 9 a.m. with his girlfriend's Boston Terrier, Leo.

The dog chased a squirrel up a tree near the Lincoln Road entrance and then sniffed out the head, which was laying under a dusting of snow with the number "93" printed on a tag in its ear.

"At first I thought it was a frozen squirrel or kitten, then I saw the tag and horns and realized what it was," Rabig said via email. "I would describe my reaction as unsettled."

He added that there were no footprints around the head, which was first reported by Gothamist, so he assumed it was placed there sometime before the snowfall Sunday night.

Rabig alerted a park worker about his discovery later in the day, he said.

He said the worker "acted genuinely scared and told me not to disturb the head."

Another goat head was found in the park about four years ago, the Prospect Park Alliance confirmed. "This is not a regular occurrence," Prospect Park Alliance spokesman Eric Landau said.

Prospect Park frequenter and wildlife enthusiast Mary Beth Artz said the goat found four years ago was "possibly used for Santeria or other religious rituals."

Goat heads were not the only unsettling animal parts to be found in the park, Artz added.

"A few years back cow tongues were found nailed to trees," she said via email. "Chickens are often seen, both dead and alive — the alive, often wandering the park until rescued."

Workers in the park on Tuesday said they've made other animal-related discoveries in the park in the past several years.

"They dump goats, chickens, dogs," said an employee who's worked in the park more than 25 years. "I remember back in the 80s we had to get a dog out of the lake. They just dumped the head. We never found a body."

SHOOTING A LINGUIN.

A RARE MONSTER—HALF SNAKE. HALF CROCODILE.

Among the more interesting articles in the "Wide World Magazine" for February is one from the pen of Lieutenant-Colonel Andrew Haggard, D.S.O., who writes on the *Linguin*:—"It may probably interest some readers who have never yet heard of the brute (he says) to learn that there is still existing in the island of Java an animal—or, rather, a reptile—which seems to be the missing link between the *Ichthyosauri* of prehistoric days and the well-known *Saurians* of present times. This animal is, it appears, known to the natives by the name of *Linguin*; and at the suggestion of my friend, Baron Alfons Pereira, Consul-General of Austria-Hungary in Tunis, I propose to narrate how he was some years ago fortunate enough to shoot one of these strange monsters. 'I was,' says Baron Pereira, 'one morning in February, 1869, travelling in a large Javanese canoe with the Assistant-Resident Metman, himself a well-known sportsman. Dawn had only just broken when we found ourselves close to the mouth of the Batavia River. At this point the water was salt, and there was a considerable swell caused by the waves of the sea running up against the tide. As we advanced the rowers had considerable difficulty in making headway against the morning breeze. Suddenly there was enormous excitement among the crew of Malays who manned the boat. "*Linguin! Linguin!*" I heard repeated on all sides. "*Linguin! Linguin!*" repeated the steersman sitting next to me, seizing me by the arm as he shouted, and pointed excitedly towards the muddy shore, along which we were coasting at a distance of about 150 metres. It was, as I have said, barely light, and all that I could make out was the long and dark form of some large creature lying on the mud. I seized my rifle, not knowing in the least what a *linguin* might be, but at first imagining it to be merely a crocodile. But even with my rifle in hand I hesitated to shoot, for the movement of the boat, which was rolling, made any attempt at a steady aim impossible. However, the natives with me grew impatient. "*Linguin!*" they cried again. "Shoot! shoot!"

"Standing up, I took a hasty aim and fired. Instantly there was a most tremendous commotion in the mud. I saw a huge creature whirling round and round in the liquid ooze, first on its head and then on its tail—much

like the firework called a Catherine-wheel—while liquid mud was being scattered about in all directions. A shout of triumph rose from my crew, and the steersman, seizing a murderous-looking Malay selmitar, instantly plunged overboard to wage mortal combat with the disabled monster. He swam to shore, and boldly entering the mud, which was more than up to his knees, attacked the enormous brute. As we advanced quite close to the mud, I was now able to see that the animal appeared to be half crocodile and half snake. It had the body of the former and the neck and head of the latter. Upon the approach of the Malay it ceased its wheel-like whirlings round and round on its tail and repeatedly struck out at its new enemy with its head, trying to seize him with its fangs. But every time the *linguin* darted forward its powerful head and neck, the native struck out with his sword, each time inflicting a wound and saving himself from injury. At length a final blow struck the furious snake-crocodile fairly on the neck, and it fell dead. With great difficulty the brave fellow towed it by the tail through the mud into the water and brought it out to the canoe, when, with a good deal of trouble, we got it aboard. It was so heavy that it nearly bore down under the water the gunwale of the boat on the side where we placed it. Its length was between 9ft. and 10ft. This I know from the fact that the body alone rested on at least two thwarts of the boat. The long flexible neck and head fell upon the bottom of the craft. They were much cut about from the blows of the sword; but a peculiarity that I noticed was that, although where cut in deep gashes the flesh exposed was all white, like the flesh of a fish, there was no blood flowing from any of the wounds. In addition to the cuts upon the neck, the Malay had also nearly severed one of the forepaws of the weird creature. It was in consequence almost too much destroyed for preservation. However, I insisted upon the men's carrying the carcase with us until midday after we had disembarked; but at length, chiefly owing to the numerous cuts upon it, it became so decomposed and offensive that we had to leave it behind. Mr. Metman promised me that I should see plenty more; but, alas! never in all the time that I was in Java did I see another *Linguin*."

Friday, May 1, 2015

Shot His Wife's Paramour.

1 comments

Little Murders



Lemuel Willis told his wife he had business to take care of in the town of Carlisle, Indiana, ten miles away from their home in Sullivan, Indiana. On September 1, 1893, she took him to the station in their buggy and waved goodbye as the train left the station, believing that Lem would be gone overnight. Two friends of Lem Willis were waiting with a buggy at the Carlisle depot and the three hurried back to Sullivan. Willis believed that his wife was being unfaithful and he intended to catch her in the act.

Arriving at his home about 11:00 that night, Willis rushed upstairs, burst into the bedroom, and sure enough, he found his wife in bed with his friend W. C. Hultz. Willis drew his revolver and started firing. Hultz caught a bullet in the side before jumping out the open bedroom window. The fall broke his arm, but the wound was not fatal and Hultz got away that night.

The next day Willis began divorce proceedings and the divorce decree was granted without opposition from his wife. He also filed a law suit against W. C. Hultz seeking \$25,000 damages for the "debauchery of his wife." Hultz had been nursed back to health by his sister and when the suit was filed he decided it would be a good time to move to Chicago.

Lemuel Willis had formerly been the sheriff of Sullivan County and W. C. Hultz was a former prosecuting attorney who was considering a run for congress. They were fellow Democrats who had worked together both professionally and politically, and, prior to September 1, were considered good friends.

By Christmas, Hultz had had enough of Chicago. He declared that he was not afraid of Willis and decided to move back to his home in Sullivan. At the same time he had his attorney offer Willis \$1,000 to settle the lawsuit.

Willis's attorney advised him to take the offer because \$1,000 was better than nothing. Willis was livid. "It is not the money I want." He said, "He has ruined my home and I will hold the judgement against him as long as he lives. I will follow him to the end of the earth and to his grave."

At 8:30, the morning of December 24, 1893, W. C. Hultz came out of his office on Main Street, in Sullivan. In a darkened doorway nearby, Lemuel Willis was waiting, disguised as a

tramp in a wig and false whiskers, wearing a ragged overcoat and rubber boots. When Hultz passed him, Willis came out of the shadows, pulled a double barreled shotgun from his coat, and shot Hultz in the back. Hultz turned around and Willis fired again, hitting him the shoulder. Luke Lucas, a stable employee ran to the wounded man's aid and Hultz lived just long enough to tell him, "Luke, Lem Willis has shot me."

Willis reloaded his shotgun and fled the scene. He shed his tramp costume and was getting into his buggy when a constable arrested him for murder. The streets of Sullivan were now crowded with people anxious to get a glimpse of the killer. Public opinion had been on Willis's side after the September shooting, but shooting Hultz in the back had turned the people of Sullivan against Willis and there was talk of lynching. Fortunately no one acted; it would have been a bloody event since, in addition to the shotgun, Willis was armed with two revolvers.

It wasn't until the following September that Willis was tried for the murder of W. C. Hultz. Believing that he could not get a fair trial in Sullivan, his attorneys had successfully moved for a change venue, and the trial was held in Vincennes, in Knox County. The trial was a sensation, with prominent Indiana lawyers representing each side. The prosecution alone called more than one hundred witnesses. Mrs. Willis broke down and sobbed hysterically on the stand and when Lemuel Willis took the stand he also burst into tears, prompting one newspaper to call it "the most pathetic scene ever witnesses in the Knox County court room."

Willis's plea was unique; he pled both not guilty, and insane at the time of the act. It was the second plea that moved the jury, and Lemuel Willis was acquitted of murder by reason of insanity.

Sources:

"Disguised as a Tramp." *Evansville Courier and Press* 26 Dec 1893.

"Shot Dead by Man in Mask and Wig." *The New York Times* 25 Dec 1893.

"Shot his Wife's Paramour." *Elkhart Daily Review* 4 Sep 1893.

"Shot his wife's Paramour." *The National Police Gazette* 23 Sep 1893.

"The Usual Verdict." *Daily Illinois State Register* 21 Sep 1894.

"The Willis Trial." *Evansville Courier and Press* 23 Apr 1894.

"Willis Held." *Marion Daily Star* 30 Dec 1893.

Ann Marie Ackermann says:

🗑 May 9, 2015 at 3:38 AM

There are some nice legal issues in this case. A dying declaration, such as Hultz's last statement, is a rare exception to the hearsay rule. And was Willis never charged for the first shooting? 19th century statutes exonerating men shooting their wives' paramours caught in the act are nomered "open season statutes." I wonder if Indiana had one back then.

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Documentary explores the significance of Aboriginal entrepreneurship

By Larissa Romensky

Wed at 7:34pm Wed 18 Nov 2015, 7:34pm

abc.net.au



Photo: Before colonisation, the Loddon River was lived on and managed by the Dja Dja Wurrung and Wemba Wemba-speaking peoples. (Supplied: Culture Victoria)

Two Ballarat film makers are exploring the vital role Aboriginal transport played in the Victorian economy.

Seeing the Land from an Aboriginal Canoe is a documentary film made by Lucinda Horrocks and Jary Nemo which explores the significant contribution of the stringybark canoe.

The filmmakers were inspired by historian, Associate Professor in Aboriginal Studies Dr David 'Fred' Cahir, who specialises in forgotten Indigenous history.

It was really an entrepreneurial opportunity for Aboriginal people in a time when there wasn't a lot of opportunity for them.

They were particularly drawn to his research into the stringybark canoe and its role in Victoria's waterways.

In the film, Dr Cahir said most Aboriginal history was about violence and massacres, and not the Aboriginal contribution.

"We've placed this veil over Aboriginal entrepreneurship and Aboriginal inventiveness," he said.

Ms Horrocks said the Aboriginal people made a significant contribution to the early economy of Victoria in the 1800s, with canoes being used as transport.

"There weren't any bridges across rivers — rivers flooded and Europeans and new migrants to Victoria didn't often know how to swim," she said.

"So, they relied on Aboriginal people's technology, Aboriginal people's know-how, and their navigational skills to actually get from one point of the river to the other."

Canoes as transport for people, pianos

The canoes were used to transport goods and people, including surveyors and explorers, stock, feed and food.



Photo: This illustration depicts a scene from station life in New South Wales in 1883. (Supplied: Culture Victoria)

There was even a story of a piano being carted across a river.

"It was really an entrepreneurial opportunity for Aboriginal people in a time when there wasn't a lot of opportunity for them," Ms Horrocks said.

She said Aboriginal people learnt and found ways to adapt and flourish, particularly during the gold rush period in Victorian history, an opportune time to make money.

"Aboriginal people would just set up shop with a bark canoe at convenient crossing points and they would charge a fee to cross," she said.

Significant contribution by 'nation builders'

In the film, Dr Cahir referred to Aboriginal people as "nation builders", saying they contributed significantly to Australia's development.

"They really helped settle the newcomers in the new land; they contributed in many ways and that contribution hasn't really been recognised," he said.

In a really crucial way Aboriginal people were part of the foundation and the mapping out of Victoria as we know it today.

Aboriginal elder Bryon Powell went further and said in the film that the Victorian gold rush was dependent upon Aboriginal people assisting with transport.

"If it wasn't for my family, my old people, the gold rush probably would not have happened and the miners would not have survived," Mr Powell said.

"They had to use Aboriginal people to ferry goods across the river."

Ms Horrocks said it was not just the use of canoes that proved vital to supply goods across the river in the gold rush period.

She said Aboriginal people also possessed extensive knowledge of the environment in terms of navigation and how to construct shelter.

"They knew how to manage the landscape in times of disaster," Ms Horrocks said.

"Often in times of flood, fire and famine, that was when Aboriginal people really made a difference for the newcomers."

In the film, Dja Dja Wurrung elder Rick Nelson said Aboriginal people's contribution made the difference between whether a settlement was created or not.

"In a really crucial way, Aboriginal people were part of the foundation and the mapping out of Victoria as we know it today," Ms Horrocks said.

Seeing the Land from an Aboriginal Canoe will be screened at the CLIFF Film Festival in Castlemaine this weekend.

Topics: indigenous-aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander, aboriginal, colonialism, film-movies, history, ballarat-3350

First posted Wed at 6:26pmWed 18 Nov 2015, 6:26pm

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Silenus, the happy drunk from Ancient Greece that taught Dionysus how to party

lordsofthedrinks.com

May 26, 2015 by Micky Bumbar (Lords of the Drinks)



A statue of Silenus with the young God Dionysus on his arm.

The ancient Greeks and Romans had Gods for nearly everything. One of the most famous now, and most popular in those days, was Dionysus, or Bacchus in Roman. Less well known is his loyal sidekick Silenus. A shame because this old drunkard was the one who taught the God of Wine and Partying how to party in the first place. Silenus himself was also the God of dance, the wine press and drunkenness, indeed not a bad mentor to have. Not at all.

Like many mythical figures there are some things about Silenus that are open for discussion, but we'll get to that later. Let's start with the stuff that most sources agree on. It's said that Silenus was the son of the God Hermes, and he was told to take care of the young God Dionysos. As a mentor he taught his young protégé how to enjoy wine, music and parties. When Dionysos later became the God of Wine and Partying, Silenus stayed with him as his loyal companion. Always in a good mood and always completely wasted.



Silenus portrayed as a satyr.

Satyrs and Sileni

The way Silenus was portrayed however wasn't always the same. According to some sources he was a satyr, a man with the legs, tail and ears of a horse or donkey. Other times he is just an old man sitting on a donkey. In both cases there are usually some other satyrs around, whom are known as the Sileni. Silenus is said to be their father or even grandfather. Therefore Silenus is usually portrayed as a balding old man with white hair all over his body, as where the Sileni look significantly younger. However, where 'normal' satyrs usually spend all their time chasing nymphs for their sexual urges, the Sileni are more interested in getting drunk.

The Donkey

There are also a couple of explanations why Silenus – if he is not a satyr – is riding on a donkey. One is the scenario where he got drunk on the wedding of Dionysus and Ariadne and did a little rodeo act on a donkey to entertain the wedding guests. Another is that in the Gigantomachy, the War between the Gods and the Giants, Silenus showed up on a donkey, with that confusing the opposite side. A third and quite logical

solution is that Silenus is usually riding a donkey cause he is simply too drunk to walk.



A Roman Silenus mask, meant for Bacchanalia.

Intelligent

Still Silenus was quite a loved and respected character in Greek and Roman mythology. His big donkey ears were actually proof of that, since big ears were considered a sign of great wisdom. It was also said that Silenus when intoxicated had the prophetic gift to tell the future. And if you're not convinced by his wisdom yet, let's quote the man's catchphrase: "The man who does not enjoy drinking wine is mad." Suck on that Aristoteles!

King Midas

The most famous Greek myth in which Silenus plays a role is the one of King Midas and his lust for gold. It is the one time that Dionysos lost his companion for a few days, as Silenus is partying with Midas. He entertains the king with music, dance, wine and the best stories he ever heard. When Dionysos finally finds his mentor and drinking buddy again, safe and sound under Midas' roof, he wants to grant the king one wish. Midas who loves gold wishes that from then on everything he touches turns to gold. As a result he is doomed to never experience the pleasure of good food, wine or sex anymore. Quite a harsh lesson by the God, but this tragedy got a happy ending.

Dionysia Festivals

Speaking of Greek tragedies; at the traditional Dionysia Festivals in Ancient Greece Silenus used to take care of the comic relief between all the 'mother loving' and 'father killing' on stage. Every three tragedies were followed by a satyr play with Silenus, in which several mythical figures were placed in different settings. These satyr plays were the cradle of modern day comedy, or in another word: satire.

Micky Bumbar

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Saturday, July 4, 2015

The Silver Lake Mystery.

1 comments



The discovery of a woman's body in a barrel, buried in a ravine near Silver Lake, on Staten Island, New York in 1875 began a frantic investigation to determine who she was and how she had died. With three false identifications and at least a dozen other missing girls as candidates for the body in the barrel, it seemed as if the Silver Lake mystery would never be solved. She turned out to be Mrs. Mary Ann Reinhardt, married to a Staten Island candy store owner who decided to take a new wife and dispose of the old one.

Date: July 19, 1878

Location: Stapleton, Staten Island, New York

Victim: Mary Anne Degnan Reinhardt

Cause of Death: Abortion

Accused: Edward Reinhardt

Synopsis:



Silver Lake, Stapleton, Clifton

Three boys tending cattle near Silver Lake on Staten Island, New York, September 15, 1875, happened to come across a patch of ground that yielded under their feet. They stopped to

investigate, digging in the soft dirt, removing two large stones, to find a damp piece of carpet that had been stretched over a barrel. Thinking they had found hidden treasure, the boys quickly worked to remove the carpet. They were shocked by what they found: a naked woman, with a long braid of chestnut hair, doubled up in an unnatural position to fit inside the barrel, . They ran to New Brighton and told Constable Sheehan that had found a "beautiful lady" up in the ravine.

The news spread quickly through the village and a large crowd gathered to watch as the constables dug the barrel out of the ground. The body was removed, along with a linen sheet, a chemise, and an empty salt bag that were used as padding to keep the body in place. They found nothing to identify the body and her face was almost completely decomposed, the only distinguishing features were the braid of hair and two rows of perfect, white teeth. The situation was immediately compared to the death of Alice Bowsby, seven years earlier, whose body had been packed in a shipping trunk to cover up a botched abortion. The idea that abortion was involved in this case as well was strengthened when the coroner's examination revealed an eight month old fetus in the woman's abdomen. The doctors believed that she had died from internal hemorrhaging.

The story was made public, and the following day a young man named Louis Reige went to the coroner's office and asked to see the body. He had lived in Clifton the previous year and had been intimate with a girl named Ellen Murphy. Reige promised to marry her, but left to take a job in Somerville, New Jersey, returning occasionally to see her. She had become pregnant and on his last visit in August she told him she would give birth in two months. When he returned on September 6, he found she had disappeared. He feared she was the girl in the barrel.

Reige was taken to see the body and he immediately broke into tears. He recognized her by the perfect teeth and by the braid of hair, worn the same as Ellen Murphy's. The inquest had begun and Reige was taken to testify before the coroner's jury. Ellen Murphy's landlady, Mrs. Hazel of Clifton, testified that Ellen had quit her job, packed her trunk and left the house on August 30, saying she was going to visit Ireland for two or three months.

But the identification was far from conclusive and families of other missing girls in the area came to Clifton to view the body. The family of Mary O'Neil looked at the body but were unable to make an identification. George Hummel of Saugerties, New York, however, was positive that it was the body of his daughter Annie who had been abducted from her home the previous December. The body had already been buried in the woods adjoining the County Poor House and had to be exhumed. Though very little was left of the body but the braid of hair, it was enough for George Hummel to exclaim, "It is Annie! It is Annie!"

When she was thirteen-years-old, Annie Hummel went to work at the home of the Schoenfelds, a wealth family in Saugerties. All went well until the summer of 1877 when Mrs. Schoenfeld went to New York to be treated for a chronic illness. In her absence Mr. Schoenfeld was seen to kiss Annie and "otherwise demean himself improperly." In December it became known to her friends and family that Annie was pregnant. Schoenfeld said that

Annie was suffering from dropsy and, against her parent wishes, sent her to New York for treatment. Annie was never seen again.

As sure as Hummel was, there was still no objective evidence that the body was his daughter's, and it was reburied. Some time later, the coroner received a letter from a doctor who had treated Annie Hummel as a young child, for a broken arm; if the right arm of corpse had been broken, it would be strong evidence that the body was Annie's. Hummel returned to Clifton with his lawyer and the doctor, and the body was exhumed once again. Both arms were cut off and boiled to remove the remaining flesh, but when examined, neither arm showed any evidence of fracture. In the meantime the coroner received, at least a dozen letters from friends and families of young women who had left their homes under similar circumstances, prompting the New York Times to comment that the investigation "at least succeeded in revealing grinning skeletons in the closets of several households."

While it appeared that the body would never be identified, some other clues in the case were beginning to pan out. A man named Gustave Keymer, who often visited Silver Lake to dig up water-cresses, recalled seeing a man digging a hole near the lake, six weeks earlier. The man told him he was digging a hole to bury his Newfoundland dog; the dog was inside a barrel. Keymer told him not to bury it there because the smell would be a nuisance. The man then put the barrel in a wheelbarrow and took it down into the ravine to the spot where the body was later found.



Edward Reinhardt

The police had been able to trace the salt bag, the carpet and the barrel to the possession of Edward Reinhardt who had lived in Stapleton, on Staten Island, until July 20, when he moved to Broome Street in New York, with his new wife. The police took Gustave Keymer with them when they went to find Reinhardt in New York. Keymer took one look and identified Reinhardt as the man who he saw digging the hole. Reinhardt was arrested and taken back to Staten Island.

Before moving the Broome Street, twenty-five-year-old Edward Reinhardt ran a small store in Stapleton selling candy and tobacco. At the time he was living with a woman he called Mary Anne Keegan but her name was actually Degnan. At the inquest, their landlady, Mrs.

Herborn, testified that they were married. Annie told the landlady that she was pregnant and worried because Reinhardt mistreated her. July 19 Reinhardt said he was moving out and Mrs. Herborn never saw Annie again.

Reinhardt said that he and Annie parted company that day. Shortly before moving out Reinhardt married Pauline Ditmar. The two women had never met. Reinhardt said that he was still in touch with Anne Degnan and could produce her at any time. The police checked some addresses Reinhardt gave them, but the found no trace of Annie Degnan.

Trial: May 21, 1879



William Howe

Edward Reinhardt was represented in court by William Howe of Hummel and Howe, the most prominent criminal lawyers in New York, who had successfully defended accused a number of accused murderers, in sensational murder trails. Howe defended abortionist Jacob Rosenzweig, accused of killing Alice Bowsby and stuffing her in a shipping trunk. Though Rosenzweig was found guilty of second degree murder, Howe's legal maneuvering had him out of jail in less than a year. This case would prove tougher.

By the time of the trial, it had been determined that Edward Reinhardt, had in fact, been married since November 24, 1877, and in court was often referred to as Annie Reinhardt or "the first Mrs. Reinhardt." The prosecution introduced all of the circumstantial evidence, testimony that Reinhardt mistreated his pregnant wife, and witnesses who saw him with the barrel in a wheelbarrow in July 20.

The defense took the bold move of admitting that Edward Reinhardt buried Annie's body, but had nothing to do with her death. She had gone to New York seeking an abortion and became the "victim of violent malpractice, to which Reinhardt was not a party." Reinhardt took the stand and said his wife returned on July 18 and the following afternoon complained of great pains after taking some medicine the doctor had given her. She died between eleven and twelve that night. He buried the body because he was afraid he would be charged with her death.

The jury was not convinced. After deliberating for forty minutes they returned a verdict of

guilty.

Verdict: Guilty of first degree murder.

Aftermath:

There was some question as to the fairness of Reinhardt's trial and the judge himself issued a writ of error. Reinhardt had only two meetings with his counsel who was not acquainted with the full particulars of the case. On the stand Reinhardt hurt his own case by confirming that the deceased was, in fact, Annie Reinhardt, something that the prosecution had not fully demonstrated.

Reinhardt's attorney filed for a new trial. While the New York Supreme Court considered the matter, the remains of Mary Anne Reinhardt, Nee Degnan, were exhumed once more at the request of her parents, to be reinterred at the Holy Cross Cemetery in Flatbush, Long Island. Reinhardt was tried again the following April and once again found guilty. He was scheduled to hang in April 2, 1880, but his attorney was able to stay the execution until the following January. After two unsuccessful escape attempts, Reinhardt settled in to life in prison, taking care of two large cats who shared his cell, making ship models, painting a mural on his cell wall, and conversing with sentimental ladies who would visit him.



Edward Reinhardt in his Prison Cell.

In January 1881, the gallows from New York City's Tombs prison were transported to Richmond County Jail, in preparation for Staten Island's first execution in more than a hundred years. On January 15, more than three hundred people from every town on Staten Island came to the jail, many traveling by horse drawn sleighs, to be present at the hanging of Edward Reinhardt. At a little past ten o'clock, the hangman cut the rope and six minutes later Reinhardt was dead.

On a happier note, in November 1878, Ellen Murphy returned Clifton with a healthy baby on her arm. She had gone to New York City to have her baby and decided to stay in seclusion until matters on Staten Island settled. Louis Reige was overjoyed to see her alive and proposed marriage immediately. Miss Murphy accepted.

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1 comments :

Cassandra Troy says:

July 13, 2015 at 12:05 PM

Grisly, torture and death from abortions is a state to which reich wingers would love to see us return. Poor women of any race is cursed from birth; esp. when the men in their

lives secretly hate them. A loved one is cared for and not tormented.

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Posted on December 18, 2011 by nzumel

I've been trying to write an article about the Filipino *aswang* (specifically the variant that's called *manananggal* in Tagalog), and I can't get started. I think my last post (about too much endless recycling of the same information on the web) gave me writer's block. So here's a just a little bit, to get myself started again.

The Malaysian version of the demon that separates head from body is called *pananggalan*, or *penanggal*, from the word *tanggal*: "to detach". The same root word is the origin of the Tagalog term, *manananggal*, although most Filipino stories that I've read refer to the *manananggal* simply as an *aswang*. I suppose that the creature originated in Malaysian folklore, and came over to what is now the Philippines (mostly the island of Luzon, I think) along with one of the waves of Malaysian migration. Once arrived, the stories of the creature fused with some other existing ghouls/vampires/werecreatures (the *aswang*) that were already in the folklore of the existing Filipinos. That's just a guess, though.

Unlike the Japanese (or Chinese?) *nukekubu*, it's not just the *pananggalan*'s head that flies off; the intestines and entrails of the creature are still attached. The *pananggalan* is either a viscera-sucker or a bloodsucker; it especially likes children and fetuses. They seem to be exclusively female, and they disguise themselves as ordinary human women and live in normal society. According to Skeat, in *Malay Magic: An Introduction to Folklore and Popular Religion of the Malay Peninsula* (1900), the *pananggalan* keeps a jar of vinegar at its home. When its head detaches from its body, the intestines swell up, so when the head returns home, it must soak its intestines in the vinegar until they shrink enough that they will fit back inside the body, and the *pananggalan* can reattach itself. Eww.

Okay. That's all stuff you can find out easily enough on the web. Here's a little more.

Skeat includes an origin story (three, actually) for the *penanggalan*. In the first story, a woman is sitting and meditating in a large vat that is normally used to hold vinegar. A man walks by and finds her, and asks "What are you doing?" The woman is so startled that her head actually comes off her body — in Skeat's version, she kicks her own chin while trying to escape (out of the vat, I suppose). I prefer to visualize that her head whipped around so fast when she heard the man that her neck just unscrewed, like in an old Warner Brother's cartoon. Anyway, the woman was understandably rather ticked about this turn of events, and she turned into an evil bloodsucker because of it.

The first line of Skeat's version is:

The story goes that once upon a time a woman was sitting to perform a religious penance (dudok bertapa) in one of the large wooden vats which are used by the Malays for holding the vinegar made by drawing off the sap of the thatch-palm.

(On a side note: the vinegar in this story, known in the Philippines as *sukang paombong*, is

one of my Dad's favorite things. Yeah, it's probably homesickness, or nostalgia.)

If you google "dudok bertapa", as I did (I wondered if it was the name of the religious ritual), you will easily find the entire story, verbatim, and several paraphrases. Some of the paraphrases state that bathing in vinegar is a penance ritual (and that's what the woman was doing). That may be true, but "dudok bertapa" simply translates as "sit meditating", according to Google Translate. Why does Skeat define it as a religious penance? Well, I found a 1912 Malay-English dictionary here that translates *dudok* as "to sit", and *bertapa* as "penance". Note that the dictionary was published by a Singapore-based Methodist publishing house — for their missionaries, I imagine.

I don't speak Malaysian; *bertapa* may in fact have, or have had, some religious shades to its meaning, but I'm not sure that it necessarily ever meant "penance" in the sense that a nineteenth-century Christian westerner would understand the term, as opposed to a more Hindu or Buddhist conception of meditation. I can imagine, though, that Skeat had a dictionary rather like the one that I found while he was in the civil service in Malaysia.

So that's that. But why is she sitting in the vinegar vat, then? Obviously the man in the story wondered the same thing (which is another reason to doubt that it's a religious rite: then the man would have known what she was doing). My guess is that the vinegar vat story was devised to tie into the intestine-soaking procedure that I mentioned above. When you think about it, there is actually no logical reason (not even in the folktale sense) why a woman who decapitated herself in this manner would turn into an evil fetus-loving bloodsucker. I mean, if I were she, I'd exact my revenge on sneaky men who go tiptoeing around and startling people.

Skeat also mentions another writer's origin story:

Note: Cp., however, "The Penanggal, that horrible wraith of a woman who has died in childbirth, and who comes to torment small children in the guise of a fearful face and bust, with many feet of bloody, trailing entrails in her wake" — Clifford, loc.cit.

This origin story makes more sense out of a *penanggal*'s typical feeding habits. Note that Clifford mentions a "fearful face and bust"; the Filipino version of this creature segments at the waist, rather than at the neck. I wondered when that change happened. This suggests that there may have been similar versions prior to the legend moving to the Philippines. Or Clifford just got his stories mixed up.

The final origin story says the *penanggalan* was a woman who studied black magic under a devil, and her condition is a "reward" for her service. This is more in line with a theory that Herminia Meñez has about the Filipino viscera-sucker: namely the story is an attempt by the Spanish Catholic authorities to discredit the female shamaness who was the primary medical, religious and spiritual authority in pre-colonial Filipino culture. I will write more about that in another post (really!), but for now I'll just say that I think the existence of an exclusively female version of the creature in Malaysia takes the force from her argument that the Catholic priests are responsible for the exclusively female *manananggal* in Filipino folklore. On the other hand, one can argue that a similar process could have taken place in Malaysia as that region converted to Islam.

Much of this is purely my amateur speculation, of course. I don't study any of this for a living. But the speculation is fun, isn't it?

I'll finish up with a folktale from *The Malayan Peninsula*, by James Begbie and Diptendra M. Banerjee, 1834.

The Malays state the a man had two wives, the one black and the other white, who were both Penangalans. He was informed of the circumstance, but scarcely credited it. In order to ascertain the fact, he feigned a journey of some days, and the women, believing him to have left the house, departed on a Penangalan trip, leaving their bodies behind. These the husband changed, putting the body of the black on in the place of the white one, and vice versa. On the return of the women, with their entrails amazingly swollen from their foul banquet, each entered a jar of vinegar in order to diminish their size, and then re-animated the bodies, but, unknown to themselves, effected an exchange, the white one entering the black body, and the black one the other, as they had not remarked the substitution. The husband, coming in, said, 'Ha! what is this? The head and neck are black, and the body white, and the other is black with a white head and neck?' He reported the circumstance to the king who ordered them both to be put to death.

Oh, one more thing. I finally figured out that the Clifford text that Skeat cites above is *In the Court and Kampong* by Sir Hugh Charles Clifford (1896). I just downloaded it; it seems to be a collection of folktales and "folk-like tales", rather in the way that Lafcadio Hearn told folktales of Japan. Might be worth checking out.

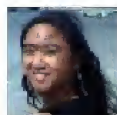
This entry was posted in Folklore, Folktale and tagged aswang, filipino aswang, filipino folklore, folklore, malaysian folklore, manananggal, penangalan. Bookmark the permalink.

2 thoughts on "Sitting in a Vinegar Vat"



1. Dariel & Cathy, photographers says:
on November 6, 2014 at 5:29 pm

Nice blog! Bertapa likely comes from Sanskrit Tapasya, austerities performed in order to gain enlightenment or divine power. It's like penance in that it embraces suffering, but not for the purpose of atoning for a sin.



• nzumel says:
on November 7, 2014 at 8:39 am

That makes sense — thank you for pointing it out! So it really isn't penance in the way Westerners would think of it....

National Museum of Health and Medicine (NMHM): Effects of Canister Shot in the Civil War: Skull of a soldier of the 54th Massachusetts Volunteers

medicalmuseum.mil

Effects of Canister Shot in the Civil War: Skull of a soldier of the 54th Massachusetts Volunteers



Skull in case

This skull was discovered in 1876 on Morris Island, South Carolina, near the site of Battery Wagner, a powerful earthwork fort that had protected the entrance to Charleston Harbor during the Civil War.



Skull on display

The skull belonged to a man of African descent—a soldier of the famous 54th Massachusetts Volunteers, which had led the assault on Wagner on the night of July 18, 1863. Of approximately 600 men who made the charge, 256 were killed, wounded, or

missing.

From the size of the wound, and the remains of the projectile itself, it can be determined what type of munition hit this man: an iron canister ball from one of two field howitzers known to have been used in the repulse of that attack.

The 54th Massachusetts Volunteers was not the first black regiment in the Civil War, nor was it the first to fight. However, it was the first black regiment raised entirely of free men enrolled on exactly the same footing as white troops and the first to engage in a major action well-covered by the national press. Its gallant conduct in the doomed assault on Battery Wagner, at Charleston, South Carolina, on July 18, 1863, electrified the nation and proved once and for all that the black man, given the opportunity, could learn the soldier's trade, and fight as well as any white man.

The Assault on Battery Wagner



Battery Wagner, Charleston, SC



"The Assault on Battery Wagner" by Thomas Nast
"The Assault on Battery Wagner" by Thomas Nast

Battery Wagner was a powerful fort built of sand and earth. Among the many guns protecting it from ground attack were two 12-pound bronze howitzers. Field howitzers of this type were on large spoked wheels and could be easily swiveled around to fire on an attack from any angle. For close-in work they were loaded with canister—a metal can the size of the cannon-bore and filled with 48 iron balls, each 1 1/8th inch in diameter. When fired,

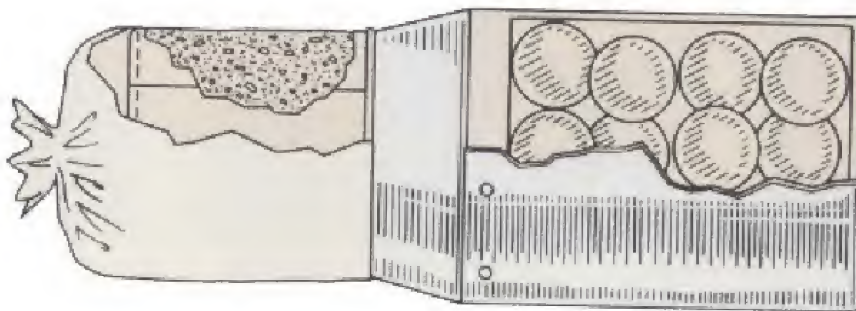
these guns were like huge shotguns, the iron balls flying off in a wide arc of death and destruction. On the night of the assault, both howitzers were knocked out and half buried in the preliminary bombardment of the fort, but once the barrage lifted to allow the infantry to attack, they were easily dug out of the sand and set upright to fire on the attacking forces.

Approximately 600 men of the 54th Massachusetts made the assault on Wagner. Due to tidal flooding of the ground in front of the fort, the regiment was pressed to its extreme right. This movement also took them out of the line of fire of most of the big guns of the fort. Directly ahead was the highest

portion of the fort, though unbeknownst to the attackers, almost totally undefended, as the Confederate regiment to be posted there refused to leave the safety of their bomb-proofs. Had the 54th charged straight ahead, it would have been up and over and right into the heart of the fort. Unfortunately, commander Colonel Robert G. Shaw led the regiment to the left, against the lower, but heavily defended, center of the wall. Besides the four 32-pounders directly ahead, the mass of attacking men was subject to enfilading fire from the two recovered field howitzers above them. The regiment clung to the face of the fort for almost an hour, but eventually had to retire. Approximately 6000 more Union troops eventually were thrown into the battle to no avail. Wagner remained in Confederate hands for another four months, then was evacuated when its purpose had been achieved.



Confederate 12-pound Canister Round Confederate 12-pound Canister Round



Schematic drawing 12-pound Canister Round Schematic drawing 12-pound Canister Round

The skull on display shows the destructive effect of the 12-pound canister used in the Fort's defense. When the gun was fired, the individual balls in the canister round jostled and bumped into each other and so

exited the barrel at relatively low velocity. In this case, it can be seen that a single ball has created a nearly round entry wound and then incompletely penetrated the opposite side of the skull leaving fragments of iron next to the bone.

Radiating fractures from

the entrance and exit can be seen crossing the temporal, parietal and frontal bones. The ball entered from rear left, traveled back to front and upwards exiting on the right side. The entrance and exit correspond almost perfectly with the anatomical landmarks asterion and pterion respectively. The skull was exposed for approximately 16 years, along with the fragments of the rusting iron ball that stained the bone around the exit wound and darkened the entire cranium.

Last Modified Date: 21 Oct 2014

This Web site provides an introduction to the National Museum of Health and Medicine (NMHM) and contains official Government information. Its use is intended for members of the general public, news media and Army Medical Department beneficiaries.

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The Snow Baby: A Cautionary Tale - Medievalists.net

medievalists.net

November 22, 2015

By Danièle Cybulskie

In medieval France, a type of story grew up amidst the epics and romances that was focused on pure entertainment: the fabliau. Like fables, fabliaux are short tales, although their purpose is not to teach morals, but rather to get a good laugh. Most of the time, fabliaux are lighthearted and lusty, but occasionally they stray into dark humour, like "The Snow Baby".

Once upon a time, so the story goes, there was a merchant who traveled a lot. One day, the merchant set out on a long business trip. "He was gone for two whole years," says the anonymous fabliard, "and while he was away his wife, with the help of a young man she knew, got herself pregnant" (p.17). This was thanks to "Love, which lies always in wait" (p.17), especially in fabliaux about merchant husbands. When the merchant returned and asked his wife about it, she replied:

Husband, once when I was looking out for you up there on the high balcony, all sad and sorrowful at your delay, I chanced to look up at the sky, and it being winter and the snow falling heavily, a little snow fell into my mouth. Before I was aware of it I swallowed it, and it was so sweet that from the little I swallowed I conceived this beautiful child. (p.18)

The merchant exclaimed that they were blessed by God, but "in his heart, he did not believe her story" (p.18). (Maybe someone had already told him about swallowing watermelon seeds.) The merchant bided his time until the boy had grown to be fifteen years old, at which point the merchant told his wife it was time he took the boy on a trip, to teach him about the family business. The wife was wary, but had no choice but to let her son go with her husband.

They merchant and the boy travelled to Genoa, where "the merchant sold the boy to a man who took him to Alexandria to sell him on the slave market," writes the fabliard (p.19). The merchant then returned home to his wife, who (after myriad fainting spells) pleaded with the merchant to tell her what had become of the boy. The merchant replied:

It was on a hot summer's day just about noon in the country where we were traveling, when I and your son went for a walk on a very high hill where the rays of the sun, which were very bright and burning hot, fell full on our heads. Alas, that walk cost us dear! For the boy, exposed to the full heat of the sun, all at once melted away. And it is no wonder that he did, for as we know he was made of snow.

Thus the merchant had his revenge on his faithless wife, the fabliard tells us, and his wife "had to drink what she herself had brewed" (p.20).

This type of dark humour isn't typical of fabliaux in general (although the character of the lusty, cheating wife certainly is), but the story seems to have roots in conventional folk tales, and is itself the first instance of a popular type of baby-from-swallowed-object stories, according to Robert Hellman and Richard O'Gorman (p.20). Medieval listeners, it seems, would have appreciated the sinister wit of the merchant in the face of his cuckolding.

As the first snows begin to fall in the northern hemisphere this month, you may want to think twice about lifting your face up to catch a snowflake on your tongue. You never know what trouble you may end up getting into.

(The translation used here is from **Hellman and O'Gorman's book**, but for a great (and more complete) modern collection, I recommend Nathaniel E. Dubin and R. Howard Bloch's ***The Fabliaux***.)

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Filed Under: Features Tagged With: 5MinMedievalist, fabliaux, Literature

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SOUL HAS WEIGHT, PHYSICIAN THINKS

Dr. Macdougall of Haverhill Tells
of Experiments at
Death.

LOSS TO BODY RECORDED

Scales Showed an Ounce Gone in One
Case, He Says—Four Other
Doctors Present.

Special to The New York Times.

BOSTON, March 10.—That the human soul has a definite weight, which can be determined when it passes from the body, is the belief of Dr. Duncan Macdougall, a reputable physician of Haverhill. He is at the head of a Research Society which for six years has been experimenting in this field. With him, he says, have been associated four other physicians.

Jessica Jones · 14 Oct 2015, 12:03

Published: 14 Oct 2015 12:03 GMT+02:00

The Ministry of Defence and Galicia's regional government will fund the €55 million facility - one of the few in Europe dedicated to drone research.

A Nazi-built aerodrome in northwestern Spain is to become one of Europe's only installations dedicated to drone research.

The Spanish Ministry of Defence, who along with Galicia's regional government are stumping up €55 million for the facility, is strongly denying the base will become a secret military site but admitted to *El País*:

"It could prove difficult to prevent the companies chosen to take part from using the results of their studies for eventual military purposes."

The Rozas aerodrome in Castro de Rei was built in 1943 by the Nazis, who chose the location because of its proximity to the coast.

The Rozas Aero Transport Centre (CIAR), as it became known on Tuesday, will be a base for multinational companies to conduct research into drones and how the unmanned flying machines can be best used for commercial purposes.

It will put Galicia "at the cutting edge" of drone research, the president of Galicia's regional government Alberto Núñez Feijóo told regional newspaper *La Voz de Galicia*.

Despite the fact that the airfield will be used for commercial and civilian drones, several of the firms that have already presented bids to rent the space also have defence contracts, according to *El País*.

Drones are used more and more these days in commercial contexts: from bakeries planning to deliver their bread straight to your door, to town councils using the flying objects to increase security at large public events.

But critics of the new plan for the airfield question why do much public money is being pumped into multinationals, who could end up testing military drones.

In September the head of Galicia's regional government was criticized after denying the Rozas aerodrome was used to test Israeli military drones.

The airfield cannot be used purely for military purposes because part of its funding comes from the Galician regional government, which does not have a defence budget, and part from the European Union.

In August the Spanish Military announced it would spend €171 million on four unmanned aircraft and the infrastructure to support them in order to boost its military surveillance capability.

Working with Ancestors in Espiritismo

How To, Religious Practices, Spirits and Ancestors

January 9, 2014

by Dr. E.



Our bóveda at the Santeria Church of the Orishas where we work with our Ancestors through Espiritismo Cruzado.

There are several ways of working with your ancestors within Santería Lucumí. In a previous article we discussed how to work with Ancestors (Egun) through the Traditional Lucumí Ancestral Shrine (opá ikú). In this article we'll present another common way of working with your Ancestors – through the practices of Espiritismo. Espiritismo is a separate spiritual and religious practice that has been incorporated into Santería in the mid 1900's. The type of Espiritismo practiced in Santería Lucumí is called Espiritismo Cruzado (Blended Spiritism) because it has been blended or hybridized with African elements from the Congo people.

Espiritismo's Concept of Ancestors

Espiritismo Cruzado focuses its spiritual practices on working with the dead. The dead include both Ancestors of blood and initiation, as well as spirit guides, guardian spirits and elevated masters. Within a Lucumí cosmology, blood and initiatory Ancestors would be called Egun, while the rest would be called Ará Orún, or "citizens of heaven". While traditional Lucumí ancestral work is pretty limited to working with Egun, Espiritismo Cruzado has a system in place to work with Ará Orún and other non-related spirits.

One of the primary goals of Espiritismo Cruzado is spiritual evolution. This includes working toward your own personal spiritual evolution and enlightenment as well as assisting other spirits with their evolution and enlightenment. Espiritistas often work to help spirits that are trapped, addicted, obsessed or dark in vibration to evolve, release their attachments to the physical world and move on to the next stage of their spiritual growth. This work is done by offering prayers, light and service to the spirits. To be clear, ANYONE can work with Espiritismo Cruzado regardless of initiatory status.

When working with your Ancestors within Espiritismo Cruzado, you focus on offering prayers, exercising your mediumship skills and communicating with them to tend to their needs, heed their guidance and offer them spiritual energy, that they may return it to you in the form of spiritual assistance, support, enlightenment, spiritual advancement and personal empowerment. You can also pray for your spirits to support you in spiritual work you accomplish like cleansings, blessings, healings, laying on of hands, etc. Your spirits will work

through you to facilitate your spiritual goals.

Each person has a Spiritual Court – a group of spirits who surround him and work to assist him in life. Some of the spirits are of blood ancestry, but some are not. Some have opted to work with that person, guiding and protecting them through live. Others work with that person specifically on a particular issue and nothing else. Some spirits work through that person for the benefit of others. Every person has a Spirit Guardian that protects their spiritual well being and guards their back. This is why anyone can work through Espiritismo.

The Bóveda – the Altar of Espiritismo

The central altar and focus of Espiritismo's practice is called the bóveda (BO-vay-dah – accent on the first syllable). The bóveda is typically a table, shelf or top of a dresser that has been covered with a white sheet or cloth, upon which have been placed 7 stemmed glasses of water. Some lineages use 9 glasses of water, but we utilize 7 in the Santeria Church of the Orishas. One of those seven glasses is larger and taller than the rest and represents the person's spiritual consciousness as well as the connection to his Spirit Guardian. Some people assign individual glasses specifically to a spirit in their spiritual court. The bóveda typically has a crucifix on it, or inside the central large glass. It is also common to have images of saints, statues, candles, flowers or even doll representing a person's spirits on it. Anyone can set up a bóveda and begin working with their spirits regardless of initiatory status. You do not have to be a priest to set one up. A person's work with their spirits is personal and does not require the intervention of a priest or priestess.

Working With Your Ancestors at the Bóveda



Statues depicting Indian and Congo spirits, along with fans for Gypsy spirits grace this simple bóveda along with a glass of water, crystal ball and a white candle.

A common way of working with your Ancestors at the bóveda is to begin by approaching the altar and lighting a white candle for them. Then put a few dashes of a perfume of your choice, in your hands. Typically Espiritistas will use Florida Water, Colonia 1800, Siete Machos or Colonia Pompeia. Rub your hands together and pass them over their body to pick up any negativity or errant energy, then flick the energy at your bóveda so that your spirits can cleanse you and take it away. The perfumes work not only as an offering of fragrance to your spirits, but the alcohol in them works to feed and nourish your dead spirits so that they can better manifest their energies around you.

Once you've cleansed your aura begin by praying. There is a heavy Catholic element to Espiritismo Cruzado. The most common prayers are the Lord's Prayer (Our Father), Hail Mary and Glory Be. Some Espiritistas like to pray from Allan Kardec's *Book of Selected Prayers*. It is also nice to burn some incense for your spirits, like Frankincense and Myrrh or Three Kings. Knock on your bóveda three times to greet the spirits. Then take a moment and talk to your spirits. Discuss things that are troubling you or things with which you seek guidance. Then sit in silence and allow your mediumship skills to perceive whatever information your spirits give

you.

Many Espiritistas report receiving messages in the form of ideas that pop in your head, or imagery that comes to your mind. Others have feelings in their body, or perceives scents. Allow the information to come to you in whatever way it will. You can ask your spirits for clarification. For example if they offer you an image of a car, you can say "I perceive an image of a car. How does this relate to my situation?" and see what your spirits give you. Take as much time as you can, and feel free to repeat any prayers especially after they've given you some guidance. Offering a prayer in response to their guidance is akin to offering them spiritual light in compensation for their help.

When you are done with your prayers and work, close with another praying of The Lord's Prayer, Hail Mary and the Glory Be. Knock on the bóveda three times and your work is complete. While some people do offer drinks at the bóveda, strictly speaking this is not proper. Work at the bóveda should be kept spiritual in nature, not physical. Focus on offerings of prayers, candles, light and fragrance. The most physical offering you can do is to blow some cigar smoke on your bóveda, but I personally do not do this. It is always appropriate to offer flowers to the spirits at your bóveda.

Coupling your work at the bóveda with your work at the Traditional Lucumí Ancestral Shrine will give you a well-rounded practice for working with your ancestors, keeping your relationship with them strong, and maintaining their support and assistance at all times.

Tags: , , , , , , , , , ,

5 comments

Honoring Ancestors in the Traditional Lucumí Way

Categories:

How To, Religious Practices, Spirits and Ancestors

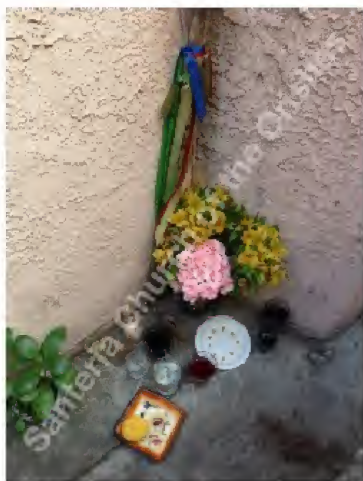
January 4, 2014

by Dr. E.

Honoring the Ancestors is of primary importance in all Lucumí rituals and practices. The Ancestors come before the orishas and must be given their due attention and offerings before proceeding with any initiation, ritual or festival. Ancestors are typically honored with food offerings, drinks, flowers, prayers, cigar smoke, libations of water (omí tutu) and coconut as well as other offerings they might like.

Who are the Ancestors?

The Ancestors are known collectively as Egun. Egun includes your ancestors of blood lineage but also ancestors of initiatory lineage. This includes the priests and priestesses who initiated you, your godparents, their godparents and back to the very start of the Lucumí faith. Egun



The Lucumí Ancestral Shrine at our church with offerings of food, drinks and cigar.

does not include spirit guides like your gypsy spirit. Egun does not include the Seven African Powers. Egun does not include elevated masters like Buddha and Jesus nor does it include saints like St. Michael. These other spirits that are not of your blood or initiatory lineage are called Ará Orún (sometimes mispronounced Ará Onú) – citizens of heaven. They are not propitiated at the Lucumí Ancestral Shrine. They can be propitiated at the bóveda (altar of Espiritismo).

For those who were adopted, Egun include the people you never knew that gave birth to you and to whom you are related by blood. In my opinion they also include the family that raised you as they are the ones who supported you and got you to where you are today.

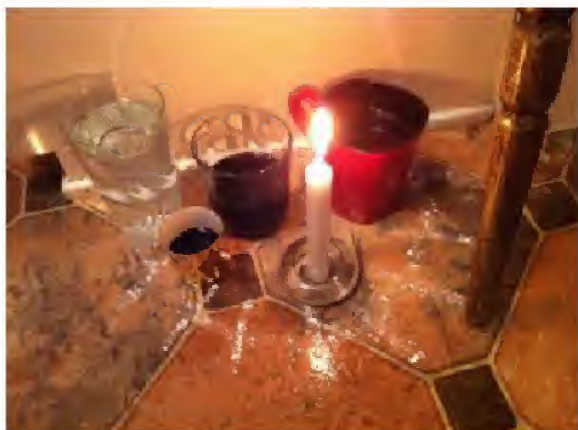
The Traditional Lucumí Ancestral Shrine

The traditional Lucumí Ancestral Shrine, sometimes called “el rincón del muerto”, is typically set up on the ground in the corner of a room like the kitchen or bathroom, or placed outdoors against a wall. The Lukumí Ancestral Shrine should be located away from where the orishas are kept, and should be on the ground level of a building to connect it to the earth – where the ancestors are buried. The odd tradition of placing this shrine in the bathroom or kitchen seems to originate from the fact that the pipes in these rooms bury themselves down into the earth, providing a direct connection to the ancestors buried within the land.

The traditional Lukumí Ancestral Shrine is typically set up by drawing a circle with chalk or cascarilla (efun) half on the wall and half on the ground. This represents the sun setting in our world but rising in the world of the dead. Typically nine “rays” are drawn on the half of the circle that is drawn on the ground. Within this circle are placed cooked food offerings, drinks, candles and other offerings for the dead. Additionally, the opá ikú (staff of the dead) is leaned against the wall next to this shrine and is used to call upon the dead by tapping it on the ground as prayers are recited in their honor. Some houses also include a terra-cotta tile specially prepared by babalawos with odu painted on it that represent and invoke the spirits of Egun. It is also traditional to include a bundle of nine sticks of the plant *mar pacífico* (hibiscus) in this shrine, due to the plants connection with spirits of the dead (although some houses use *rasca barriga* or other plants associated with egun). Some lineages consecrate an otán (stone) as the seat of Egun to place at the shrine but we do not follow this tradition at the Santería Church of the Orishas.

Making Offerings to Egun at the Lukumí Ancestral Shrine

Making offerings at the Lukumí Ancestral Shrine is simple. Just prepare any special foods your ancestors might like and place them on plates around the shrine. It is common to use chipped or cracked plates for the ancestors as this hearkens to the practice of smashing plates on the ground at the death of a Lucumí priest. It is common to offer 9 different types of beverages. You can include coffee, tea, rum or other kinds of spirits. I even offer some soda to my spirits because I know they enjoyed their coca-cola when they were alive. After you've



A small Lucumí ancestral shrine with drinks and a candle.

placed all of your foods and drinks around the shrine, light a white candle for Egun to give them light. It is also nice to light up a cigar and offer them some of the tobacco smoke as well. (If you have Native American ancestry it might not be a good idea to include booze without divining first to see if this is ok with your ancestors considering how devastating alcohol has been to the Native population.)

It is also nice to place a bouquet of fresh flowers in a vase near the shrine as an offering to the spirits. Flowers are a traditional way of honoring

the dead. Some people make the mistake of offering flowers to the orishas, but this is not proper. The odu Osa-Irosun (9-4) clearly indicates that flowers are for the dead, not the orishas.

When offerings are left at the Lucumí Ancestral Shrine it is traditional to tap the *opá ikú* (staff of the dead) on the ground as you recite the Yuba (or Moyuba) to awaken and honor your Egun, and to call them to the meal. Your godparent can give you a Yuba to pray that is associated with your lineage. Calling out the names of your ancestors and offering them praise will let them know you've prepared the meal for them.

If offerings are being given prior to a ceremony, an Olorisha or Oriaté will then divine with Obí (coconut oracle) to see if Egun gives their permission to proceed with the ceremony. If Egun does not give permission to proceed then the priest will use Obí to determine what is lacking and what Egun needs to give the green light to proceed.

Throughout the day, it is traditional to offer the first serving of every dish cooked to Egun by placing a little piece on a plate and setting it out by the Lucumí Ancestral Shrine. When you place offerings at the shrine, they are left until they start to go bad at which point they can be removed and disposed of. It is not uncommon for food or drinks left at the Lucumí Ancestral Shrine to be moldy. It's the nature of death and most priests will shrug it off and clean it when they get a chance. It's a good idea to attend to your Egun at the Lucumí Ancestral Shrine about once a week or once a month minimum.

Tags: , , , , , , ,

3 comments

Espiritismo Cruzado

Spirits and Ancestors

June 19, 2012

by Dr. E.



*Our spiritualist altar to propitiate
spirit guides through Espiritismo
Cruzado*

One of the most colorful aspects of the Santeria faith is the way in which we work with spirits of the dead. Traditionally speaking, the Lucumi/Lukumí way of honoring the dead takes place around the offering of cooked foods, prayers, libations and drumming ceremonies to the spirits of ancestors by blood or spiritual lineage. These ancestors are called Egun, and the center of ancestral worship is the opá ikú (staff of the dead). Around the opá ikú ebós and offerings of food, candles and libations are left for the ancestors.

Kardecian Spiritism

While the worship of egun has always been alive and well with the Lucumi/Lukumi people, there is not a very strong practice for working with guiding spirits – Ará Orún (spirits not of ancestral lineage – spirit guides). Thus began the introduction of Kardecian

Spiritism (Espiritismo) into Santeria Lucumi/Lukumi. Within the ritual structure of Kardecian Spiritism, participants are called mediums and work toward development of psychic abilities, perception of spirits, communication with spirits, and transmission of their messages either through channeling or through direct possession. Kardecian Spiritism places a heavy emphasis on the use of Catholic prayers during the spiritual mass (misa espiritual) or seance as a way of creating a divine protective presence while the mediums make themselves open and vulnerable to the spirits.

Traditional Kardecian Spiritism became very popular in the mid to late 1800's as the author Allan Kardec began publishing his books on spiritism. His message was originally intended as a way of cultivating spiritual awareness within the elite members of society, but the elite only engaged in spiritist masses and spiritual seances as a parlor game for entertainment. Sadly, his message of spiritual enlightenment and development of mediumship was lost on the elite classes. His work, however, was embraced by the slaves, the poor and the working class.

The Development of Espiritismo Cruzado

Espiritismo grew incredibly popular in Cuba during the Ten Years War, 1868-1878, (which later moved into the Cuban Independence War). During the Ten Years War, Cuban military leaders used misas espirituales to communicate with the spirits of deceased soldiers in order to reveal enemy troop movements and to identify whether beloved family members had died in battle. At the same time, Cuban military leaders were also engaging the assistance of Paleros (priests of the Congo-Cuban religion Palo Monte) for magical charms to protect their troops, defeat their enemy and to gain advantage on the battle field. By engaging both Espiritistas and Paleros, a curious blend of spiritism evolved in Cuba as a result: Espiritismo Cruzado.

Espiritismo Cruzado literally means “crossed” or “hybridized” Spiritism. Espiritismo Cruzado still utilizes the traditional prayers and ritual structure of Kardecian Spiritism, but it also incorporates many elements from Bantú (Congo) religious practice including the use of spirit dolls to represent spirit guides, the smoking of cigars, drinking of rum and other spirits, the

use of herbs to cleanse people, the use of perfumes and other potions to cleanse or bless those present, and the channeling and African-style possessions of mediums by spirits including Congo slaves, former priests in either Palo or Santeria, or even possession by the spirits of the dead worked within the ritual context of Palo (Nfumbes). Espiritismo Cruzado is notably African in nature and traditional Kardecian Spiritists wouldn't even recognize its practices.

The Bóveda



A typical bóveda with glasses of water and a crucifix

The center of religious worship in Espiritismo Cruzado is the bóveda. The bóveda is an altar usually made on a table or a shelf, covered in a white cloth, upon which 7 or 9 glasses of water have been placed. Typically there is a central larger glass that represents the medium's main spirit guardian. In addition to these glasses of water it is common to find a crucifix, a rosary, flowers, images or statues of saints, or dolls depicting male or female slaves, gypsies, indians, nuns, or other spirits. Many espiritistas will also keep offerings to their spirits on the table like cigars, perfumes, fans, handkerchiefs or other

items. Mediums will gather at the bóveda typically once a week to recite catholic prayers, saint prayers, prayers asking for assistance and protection, and prayers for the development of their mediumship skills.

The Spirits (Ara Orún)

The kinds of spirits commonly contacted within Espiritismo Cruzado are a blend of the typical guide spirits contacted through conventional Kardecian Spiritism (Gypsies, Pirates, Indians, Asian masters, elevated spirits like saints) with the kinds of spirits worked through Congolese spiritual work with the deceased (Congo slave men, madama type spirits, or dark spirits needing assistance or seeking work). These are usually not ancestors of blood nor of initiatory lineage (Egun), these are spirits of the dead or citizens of heaven called Ara Orún (sometimes mistakenly called Ara Onú). These spirits seek to work with people as guides, guardians or agents for magical spells. It is also common for practitioners of Espiritismo Cruzado to work with the Seven African Powers – which are not orishas, but are actually seven different spirits unique to that individual medium; one from each of the seven tribes of people brought to Cuba in the slave trade.

When spirits possess their mediums, they enter into their mediums in a very African style of possession. These are distinguished by the spinning, jumping or thrashing about of the medium as the spirit enters that person's body. Once fully possessing the body of the medium they often share drinks, smoke cigars or request specific clothing that they want to wear. Some spirits recommend spiritual cleansing or spells for those present to perform in order to better their lives. Occasionally the spirits themselves will take possession of a

medium and spiritually cleanse another person by passing herbs over the body, whisking perfume-laden cloths across a person's aura, or by spinning the person receiving the cleansing (to lift their malady off of them). These are very African experiences of possession in direct comparison to the types of possession you will see in a Kardecian Spiritist gathering where mediums typically remain seated, shake a bit, and trance out in order to dictate wisdom to those present for a period of time.

The Role of Espiritismo Cruzado in Santeria

While most Santeros are also Espiritistas who practice Espiritismo Cruzado it is important to note that Espiritismo is a foreign import into Lucumi/Lukumí practice. It is not native practice within Santeria and most importantly, it is not a requirement to practice Santeria, although 99% of Santeria practitioners do participate in Espiritismo. Some houses (spiritual lineages) make the mistake of saying that it is a requirement for people to do spiritual masses before becoming a priest in Santeria – this is not true. It is not required, but it is a good idea just in case any issues arise within that person's spiritual court prior to initiation. Espiritismo Cruzado is not a fundamental part of Santeria but it does do a lot of good. It helps aleys experience possession and it gives them a spiritual practice to begin cultivating prior to any initiations, because anyone can work with spirits of the dead (initiation is not required to do it). In modern times, more and more Santeria lineages are moving away from the practice of Espiritismo Cruzado as they embrace a more Lucumi/African way of worship. This is a further example of the Catholic syncretized elements of Santeria making their way slowly out of the practice of Santeria.

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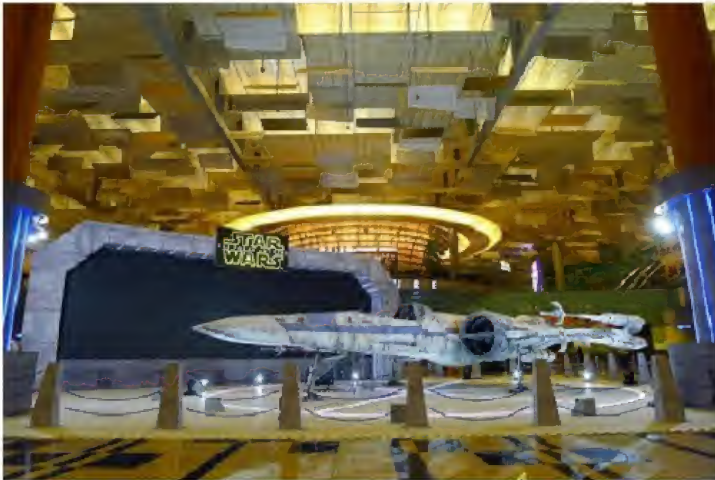
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Star Wars X-wing fighter docks at Singapore airport, travelers encouraged to sit in its cockpit

rocketnews24.com

• 22 hours ago



SS 0

If you ever thought you'd have to go to a galaxy far, far away to sit in the cockpit of a Star Wars X-wing fighter, you were wrong. All you have to do is go to Singapore.

As the primary air travel hub for Singapore, all manner of fantastic flying machines can be spotted at **Changi Airport**. And while the recent arrival of the ANA *Star Wars* 787 was a sight to see, there's an even bigger treat waiting for fans in the T3 Departure Hall.

The X-Wing Fighter exhibit is on display at Terminal 3 Departure Hall (public area), near immigration. Don't forget to tag your photos with #StarWarsatChangi!

Posted by Changi Airport on Wednesday, November 11, 2015

Docked in that section of the building is a **full-size X-wing fighter**, painted with the blue trim used in the upcoming *The Force Awakens*.

Won't it be awesome to be sitting in this cockpit? You can do it too!
#StarWarsatChangi

Posted by Changi Airport on Thursday, November 12, 2015

Even better, Changi Airport will be **allowing a limited number of fans to sit in the X-wing's cockpit**. There are four blocks on weekdays (10 a.m.-noon, 1-3 p.m., 6-8 p.m., and 7-9 p.m.) and three on weekends (10 a.m.-noon, 4-6 p.m., 7-9 p.m.), with 80 tickets for each block being handed out on a first-come-first-served basis. Judging from the wording used on the airport's website, which invites guests to "**enter the cockpit of the life-size X-wing fighter in Terminal 3 as a Stormtrooper, Kylo Ren, Chewbacca, or an W-wing pilot,**" it even sounds like outfits are **provided for travelers keen to do a little cosplay during their layover**.

Speaking of the Empire, there's also a **Tie fighter** on display in the T2 Departure Hall, although it's unfortunately not to the same 1:1 scale as its heroic space dogfighting rival.

The TIE Fighter exhibit is on display at Terminal 2 Departure Hall (public area),

near check-in row 1. Don't forget to tag your photos with #StarWarsatChangi!

Posted by Changi Airport on Wednesday, November 11, 2015

Of course, there's more to the Empire's military might than machinery, which is why every Saturday **Imperial Stormtroopers** will be stationed at Changi.

- ▼ A video showing the Stormtroopers' march through the facility
- ▼ It's like a more intimidating version of Yokohama's annual Pikachu parade.



Posed
and
ready.

SS 1

#StarWarsatChangi

Posted by Changi Airport on Thursday, November 12, 2015

Find out how you can enjoy your very own #StarWarsatChangi here:
starwars.changiairport.com

Posted by Changi Airport on Thursday, November 12, 2015

However, this *Star Wars* awesomeness isn't a permanent addition to the airport's amenities. It's all part of a celebration of the release of *The Force Awakens*, and will only last until January 5, so if you're travelling in or through Asia this winter, and are looking to indulge in a little Force tourism along the way, consider routing your trip through Changi.

Source: IT Media, Changi Airport

Top image: Facebook/Changi Airport

Insert image: Facebook/Changi Airport

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Statues And Graveshelters And Grancer The Dancer Too

Thursday, February 11, 2010

Okay! More graveshelters. First, in Magnolia Cemetery in Greenville, Alabama is this remnant of a graveshelter. The Library of Congress has this image of how it appeared back in the '30s:



The cemetery also has some Victorian cast iron monuments (many more of these type can be found in Pioneer Cemetery in Greenville):

This statue of Reverend F.W. Ward (1857-1925):

These monuments were all painted with a coat of white house paint:

This is the graveshelter at the Fort Dale



Cemetery (also in Butler County), and the LOC also has a photograph of it from the '30s. In their pic, there are a few more graveshelters here, but they are gone now. Tin roof, wood structure, dirt surface.

...ah, I just had to include this when we were on our way toward Enterprise. It's a pic we took of the 1940s post office mural (made possible by the Treasury Dept Section of Fine Art, sometimes just called 'the Section') at the post office in Luverne by Arthur Getz, who also created 210 covers for The New Yorker. Beautiful.

Okay! This graveshelter is at Bethany Methodist Church on County Road 533 in New Brockton:



Shingle roof, wood structure, pea gravel surface. The roof of the shelter is painted haint blue to keep the wasps out.

At the New Home Cemetery in the Basin Community, near Elba on County Road 413: Terra cotta roof tiles, fully enclosed brick structure, sand surface.



In Alberton, on AL Hwy 134 at New Life Baptist Church: This is a 'swept cemetery' as people have taken care to try to keep the surface clean from grass growing by applying sand and pea gravel.



Shingle roof, wood structure,

sand surface.

Now this is something **really** different. It's in the Harrison Cemetery in Kinston, and is the monument for William "Grancer" Harrison (1789 - 1860), known as 'Grancer the Dancer'.

From what I've been able to find, he was a plantation owner whose slaves referred to him as



'Grand Sir' which, shortened, became 'Grancer'. He had a dance hall built for the weekly Saturday night events he put on, and was well-known to put on a good time. He's even featured in KTW's 13 Alabama



Ghosts and Jeffrey because there's a legend that he can still be heard playing the fiddle, calling out square dances and doing jigs in his clogs.

When he planned for his funeral, he asked that he be *buried in his bed, wearing his dance clothes*.

And so...

...his monument, in the shape of a bed.



There was a legend that he, being a rich man, was buried with gold, and in the 1960s his monument was dynamited by...well, thugs. No gold found.

Because the story is so famous in the area, the monument has been rebuilt and re-vandalized several times. Here's one pic from a few years ago.

...and years & years ago, it seems that it used to be a graveshelter! I found this pic from around 1960 and this one from about 1970.

So interesting.





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HONG KONG, Nov. 13 (UPI) -- An art project went awry in Hong Kong, as police responded to reports of attempted suicide throughout the city, arriving to find that they were merely statues.

Hong Kong police received calls at 9 a.m. and 2:20 p.m. regarding people standing precariously near the edges of tall buildings. When officers investigated the scene they found statues placed on these buildings as

part of a public art project.

The statues were a part of British artist Antony Gormley's acclaimed project *Event Horizon*, which features 31 statues placed throughout Hong Kong in the largest public art project ever installed in the city.

Gormley reportedly received blessings from both the landlords and the local government to install the statues and police were also made aware of their presence.

These precautions have historically done little to prevent confusion, as the project has been installed in London, New York and Brazil where similar incidents of mistaken suicide attempts were reported.

One location on Hong Kong's St. George's building was particularly controversial, as an actual suicide had occurred there as recently as last year.

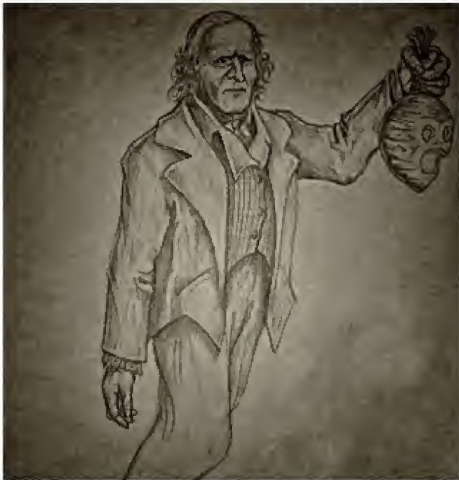
"It's very disturbing...it keeps reminding you that someone killed themselves here last year," a woman identified as Miss Leung told Apple Daily, according to Hong Kong Free Press.

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Stingy Jack, the drunken mythical figure who held the first Halloween lantern

lordsofthedrinks.com

October 30, 2015 by Micky Bumbar (Lords of the Drinks)



The mythical figure Stingy Jack, who roamed the Earth with a hollowed-out turnip in his hand.

Halloween is coming up tomorrow and all around the world people will seize this celebration as an opportunity to dress up, get drunk and act silly. But what few people know is that the one of Halloween's most famous traditions also originates from a mythical drunkard. This is the story of the jack-o'-lantern, the carved pumpkin with a light inside, once introduced by a fellow named Stingy Jack, also known as Drunk Jack or Jack of the Lantern.

According to the legend Stingy Jack was a man who spent all of his days getting drunk and swindling people, as he traveled from village to village in the Irish countryside. One night at All Hallow's Eve Jack was completely drunk again in a pub, when he ran out of money. The Devil showed up and saw an opportunity. He offered this drunkard to pay him another drink in exchange for his soul. Jack accepted the deal and the Devil shapeshifted into a coin for Jack to pay the bartender. Jack however didn't order anything just yet, but put the coin in his pocket next to a silver cross that made the Devil powerless. Jack then started to re-negotiate the terms and didn't let the Devil go before he promised that he wouldn't claim the old drunk's soul for another ten years.

Those ten boozy years passed fast. As Stingy Jack was walking a country road, he once again met the Devil, who had been waiting to take his soul. "Okay, of course I'll go with you," Jack said. "But before I burn in Hell for all eternity, can you please give me an apple from that tree over there?" The Devil saw little harm in that and climbed the tree to grant Jack his last wish on Earth. But as soon as he did, the swindler placed crosses all around the apple tree and had Satan trapped once again. This time Jack made him promise that he would never claim his soul, not even after his death. In the end the Devil had no other option than to agree.

Since Jack had nothing to fear anymore, he lived his last years on Earth more sinful than ever. He drank like a fish and tricked people like never before. When he finally died and went to the Gates of Heaven, he was refused entrance. "Someone who has been that drunk and deceitful doesn't belong here", was the verdict. So Jack's lost soul turned to his old acquaintance Satan to see if there was a place in Hell for him. The Devil however held his promise and denied him entrance too. Jack had no other option than to go back to Earth.

The way back there was quite dark and windy, so the Devil did gave Jack a light from the fires of Hell, which he put in a hollowed-out turnip. Turnips were among Jack's favorite foods and he would usually carry one around with him. From that day on Jack's soul was doomed



to roam the Earth carrying his jack-o'-lantern.

In the British folk tradition people started carving their own jack-o'-lanterns from turnips to chase away bad spirits. But when immigrants brought this tradition to America in the 19th century, they discovered that pumpkins, a local fruit, were way easier to cut. The rest of the world followed this example soon. So even though the jack-o'-lanterns aren't quite the same anymore, people all over the planet still honor the legend of Stingy Jack. With a hollowed-out pumpkin or simply by getting absolutely wasted with Halloween.

Micky Bumbar

Check out more Historical Stories and Mythical Tales

This entry was posted in Folklore and Mythology and tagged alcohol, All Hallow's Eve, america, beer, booze, Catholic church, drunk, drunk Irish man, Drunk Jack, drunkard, evil spirits, folk tale, ghost, Halloween, heaven, Hell, holiday, immigrants, ireland, irish, Irish folk tales, jack of the lantern, Jack of the Latern, jack-o'-lantern, jack-o'-laterns, legend, lost soul, myth, old drunk, Pagan celebration, pumpkin, roam the Earth, Satan, Stingy Jack, story of Stingy Jack, swindler, tale, The Devil, tradition, traditions, tricking the devil, trickster, turnip, united states. Bookmark the permalink.



1. RafeKat says:
October 30, 2015 at 1:14 pm

Cool article. Never heard the story. Never knew about the Turnip part either.



• Micky Bumbar (Lords of the Drinks) says:
October 30, 2015 at 1:31 pm

Yeah I was surprised too when I found out a few months ago. Never liked Halloween too much. Always thought it was a bit of commercial bullshit, but I am strongly reconsidering that thought now.

Cheers,
Micky

Posted on December 26, 2011 by nzumel

"In Ilokos, we don't have the *aswang*," my dad said, as we sat back after dinner, "but we have the *kapre*. He's a giant black ogre, ten feet tall, with big fiery eyes."

I had been asking Mom and Dad about *aswangs*, and whether or not they knew any stories about them, or any other beasties. It took some prodding — I doubt either of them had thought about these things in ages — but the memories were beginning to trickle forward from the backs of their brains.



Acacia Tree

Philippine Acacia Tree

"The *kapre* live in the acacia trees, smoking big pipes. They wait for you to wander by, and then they jump down to snatch you up. So my cousins always warned me: never stand under an acacia tree, or the *kapre* will get you."

Mom jumped in. "My *ninang* [godmother] said that too! She said the *taong lipod* ["shadow people"] lived in the acacia. Whenever you passed the tree, you were supposed to greet

it respectfully — you say, 'excuse me, 'po' — so the *taong lipod* don't get angry."

"They're probably the same as the *kapre*," Dad said. Mom shook her head.

"No, they're not ogres. They're invisible. And they play tricks on you, that's why you have to be nice to them. My *ninang* said that you shouldn't stand under the acacia, because the *taong lipod* might turn you into an *ibanan* ["different one"]. And they didn't just live in the acacia, they also lived in other trees, the ones with the vines around them..."

She paused, trying to explain. Dad helped her out.

"Yes, that's right. The trees that have the parasitic vines living on them, wrapped around the trunk and branches."

"Like the pine tree that used to be across the street from us?" my husband asked me.

The pine had been a scraggly, unbalanced tree, home to a gossipy murder of crows and a particularly manic family of squirrels, as well as some parasite vine. It lived in the shadow of a fat, comfortable eucalyptus, and as a result, had grown too long for its girth and leaned out too far, trying to reach the sun.

"Good thing Taz had it cut down," I said. "Mom, what's an *ibanan*?"

"Oh, like my *lola*'s [grandmother's] maid — have I told you this story? No?"

"A long time ago, when your *lola* was just a little girl, her mother had a maid who could see people no one else could see. This maid was always talking to herself in empty rooms, and laughing for no reason. Everyone said that she was *ibanan*."

"Of course, she was probably schizophrenic, but people didn't know about those things back then. My *lola* said that the maid always had to leave the Mass on Sundays before the final blessing, otherwise her boyfriend — who no one else could see — would get angry at her."

Invisible boyfriend, I thought. Wow. I wondered whatever happened to that maid.

"I'm surprised her boyfriend let her go to church at all," Dad said, voicing my own thoughts. Mom shrugged.

"Oh, who knows how these things work," she said, and stood up to clear the dinner plates.

This entry was posted in Folklore, Folktale, Stories my Parents Tell Me and tagged filipino folklore, folklore, kapre, memories, taong lipod. Bookmark the permalink.

3 thoughts on "Stories my Parents Tell Me"



1. Jose V. Barrameda, Jr. says:
on January 1, 2012 at 10:37 pm

Your Lola's maid that your Mom told you about was really an interesting one. The maid was surprisingly strong and could chop cords of firewood better than a man. Her boyfriend's name was Salustiano David (evidently a made-up name) who would visit her on a white steed from a mountain barrio in Goa, a town in Goa in eastern Camarines Sur. Anthropologists who have studied such psychological disintegration call it the Prince Charming syndrome. But I occasionally prefer to leave the halls of academia for the gothic richness of Carlos Castañeda's Don Juan Matos. Your grandlolo would sometimes hang *tahig* (an indigenous garlic plant) on the windows and the maid would complain that Salustiano could not visit her because the windows had bars of flaming swords. — Uncle Pepito

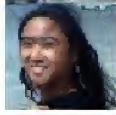


2. budji3valles (@budji3valles) says:
on December 28, 2012 at 5:42 am

Your Dad is correct to say they don't have 'aswang' in Ilocos, because 'aswang' is an evil 'god'/deity known in Bicol during pre-hispanic times. Other regions have adapted them as theirs, however the term is originally Bicolano.

The 'taong lipod' are probably 'elementals'. In our town, we usually hear the word 'Naibanan' meaning a person was 'nasapiyan' or 'possessed by evil spirits or elementals'.

When I was young, a maid of my cousin's, also was being 'courted' by a handsome 'Taong Lipod' man, similar to your lola's story. Old women instructed her not to eat any 'black rice' he offered her because her mortal body will 'disappear' once she had her fill and would never be able to come back (to normalcy). Of course, that woman could also be schizo for all we know, but her Filipinos, especially in Bicol, have very strong 'supperstitious' beliefs even to this day. I don't know what happened to that maid.



o nzumel says:
on December 28, 2012 at 10:08 am

Thanks for the additional information! I did not know that "aswang" was a Bicolano term. And thanks also for the story about your cousin's maid; it's interesting to collect stories like this.

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Teenager survives 100ft fall only to be bitten by an adder whilst waiting to be rescued

November 20th 2015

exeterepressandecho.co.uk

By Exeter Express and Echo | Posted: July 22, 2015

Teenager survives 100ft fall only to be bitten by an adder whilst waiting to be...

Britain's luckiest teenager has survived after falling 100FT off a cliff - then being bitten by a venomous snake at the bottom.

Brock Leach, 14, tumbled over a cliff edge and bounced off outcroppings and rocks during his descent - before landing on a ledge.

But as he tried to clamber to safety before the tide came in Brock suddenly felt a sharp pain in the hand he'd been using to help pull himself along.

He was horrified to discover he had been bitten by an adder - the only native venomous snake in the UK.

The horrific fall was witnessed by his brother Josh, 16, who rushed to his aid and tried to get him to higher ground.

Brock couldn't go any further so Josh scrabbled to the top of the cliff and frantically flagged down some passers-by who called for help.

His arm had already swollen to three times its normal size and he was flown to hospital where he was given anti-venom for the adder bite and kept in overnight.

He also suffered a fractured pelvis and severe bruising from the initial fall.

Brock's mother, Tracey, 47, of Tintagel, Cornwall, said: "He had a very lucky escape but I'm really proud of them both.

"They were both very ,very scared. Josh saw his brother disappear and heard him scream as he went over the ledge. He didn't panic.

"He scrambled down and he made sure he told the people who came to help that it was an adder bite.

"It could have been a lot worse. Brock took areal battering but his head and face are completely unscathed.

Tracey, who also has two other sons, Oliver, 19, and Samuel, 18, heard the rescue helicopter from their home while she was speaking to her husband Dean, 43, online from Vietnam, where he is working as an ocean exploration scientist.

But she had no idea her sons were involved until Josh arrived home a short while later

accompanied by a coastguard.

The incident took place at the clifftop at Trebarwith Strand on Sunday when it is believed Brock slipped on some lichen.

Josh said he saw him fall and, despite being frightened and shocked himself, went to his brother's rescue, scrambling down the steep incline to reach Brock's side.

He said: "He was still conscious and talking, I got him out of the way to a higher ledge because the sea was coming in. I said to stay there, but he wanted to go with me."

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The City Life; Surviving the Gowanus Canal

By ELEANOR RANDOLPH

Published: May 23, 1999

nytimes.com

On a sunny afternoon recently, the green stuff shimmering in Brooklyn's Gowanus Canal looked a lot like water. It was a fairly viscous form of water, of course, with the occasional streak of putrescence that has made the Gowanus famous as one of the most unsafe and environmentally unsound places in New York City.

But for all the floating corpses and seething typhus in its 130-year lore, today's Gowanus Canal is not quite the same notorious place it was only a few weeks ago. On May 3, the city finally replaced a propeller-driven "flushing tunnel" that broke about 30 years ago. The large new gizmo is oddly misnamed, since it does not actually flush the infectious stew out of the canal, but rather nudges the sewage and toxic "black mayonnaise," as locals sometimes call it, slowly toward New York Harbor. Nevertheless, for all but a few people in the area, any extra movement in the Gowanus is viewed as progress.

"Prior to the flushing tunnel, a dead dog would just float back and forth with the tides between Third Street and Carroll for maybe a week," explained David Lefkowitz, whose real estate office seems perilously close to the canal. "Now, the thing could be gone in maybe 24 hours." Another bit of good news, which Mr. Lefkowitz insists is making him consider the possibility of opening a restaurant overlooking the Gowanus, is that the color of the water has changed. It now looks a lot more like old-fashioned slime, he says, and a lot less like antifreeze.

If the canal is not exactly Venice, the new seven-foot flushing propeller is apparently operating so well that the Gowanus is starting to lose some of its oily luster and even its legendary smell. A number of artists who regularly haunt the canal question whether these improvements enhance the artistic value of the Gowanus or merely taint it.

Over the years, the two-mile stretch has attracted painters, sculptors, photographers, film makers and at least one dancer and his accompanying musician. An artists' co-op -- where the water is said to be good only for mixing paints -- operates in an old warehouse a few dozen feet away. A houseboat on the canal has been converted into a stained-glass studio. While others may have spotted some rather unhealthy things floating in this canal, these creative types see the muse.

Allison Prete, whose recent film about the canal, "Lavender Lake," has something of a cult following in Brooklyn, struggles to explain the lure of an atmosphere so fetid that on bad days it seems to activate an ancient warning system in the brain. After a rainstorm, when the sewers continue to overflow into the canal, the nose gets a particularly urgent message that this is not a healthy place to hang around.

Yet, humans persist, surviving on cheap rents and stories about the robber who died trying to get away from police by swimming across the canal or jokes about how the Gowanus is good for the sinuses. There are also new signs of betterment -- fresh paint, a pleasure boat taking anxious visitors on a canal tour, "for sale" signs on empty buildings that were once part of the

Gowanus wasteland.

"Everybody thinks they're discovering something," Ms. Prete says, trying to explain the fascination.

Spencer Finch, for example, discovered his art form on one of those hot August days when the canal is particularly noticeable. He decided to portray not what he saw but what he smelled. The result is his Gowanus series of pastels, which is heavy on colors like puce, pink and chartreuse.

Like other creative types who know the area well, Mr. Finch is concerned that artists' inspirations will be overcome by developers' fantasies. A cleaner Gowanus "in some ways makes it less appealing," he admits. But then, it's not yet August. ELEANOR RANDOLPH

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ARCHAEOLOGY - T-shaped stones tell story of Göbeklitepe

hurriyetdailynews.com

Friday, November 20 2015, Your time is 7:25:37 PM

ARCHAEOLOGY > T-shaped stones tell story of Göbeklitepe

ŞANLIURFA

As part of a Turkish-UNDP joint project, sculptors have engraved the findings of Göbeklitepe on T-shaped stones to show both the way to the site and the first steps of human civilization



T-shaped stones tell story of Göbeklitepe

A path to Göbeklitepe, a 12,000-year-old site in the southeastern province of Şanlıurfa often referred as the “point zero of history,” has been decorated with large stone plaques that tell about the ongoing excavation work there.

As part of a joint project by Turkey's Culture and Tourism Ministry and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), sculptors engraved the results of excavation findings on stones two-and-a-half meters in height and one meter in

width.

Nihal Dörtkardeş, the coordinator of the project, told Anadolu Agency that Göbeklitepe was receiving increasing attention but that visitors were facing difficulties in finding the site.

“Göbeklitepe has an 11,500-year history. We decided to erect these plaques since there are no road signs here,” she said, adding that 10 such T-shaped stones were erected on the four-kilometer-long road leading to the site.

The T-shaped stones are inspired by the findings at the location. Archaeologists had found such stones with figures of wild animals on them.

Göbeklitepe, a site on the UNESCO World Heritage Temporary List, is located 15 kilometers from the center of the southeastern province of Şanlıurfa.

Archaeologically categorized as a site of the pre-pottery Neolithic A Period (c. 9600-7300 B.C.) Göbeklitepe is a series of mainly circular and oval-shaped structures set on the top of a hill.



Excavations began in 1995 under the direction of Professor Klaus Schmidt with the help of the German Archaeological Institute. There is archaeological proof that these installations were not used for domestic purposes,

but predominantly for ritual or religious purposes. Subsequently, it became apparent that Göbeklitepe consists of not only one, but many of such Stone Age temples.

Furthermore, both excavations and geomagnetic results revealed that there are at least 20 installations, which in archaeological terms, can be called a temple. Based on what has been unearthed so far, the pattern principle seems to be that there are two huge monumental pillars in the center of each installation, surrounded by enclosures and walls, featuring more pillars in those set-ups.

By Lou Lumenick

November 20, 2015 2:41pm



TCM host Ben Mankiewicz at the TCM and Bonhams Treasures From The Dream Factory auction preview party. Photo: Bonhams

A "Citizen Kane" sled that has been in screenwriter Herman Mankiewicz's family for more than seven decades goes up for auction on Monday — but his grandson, TCM host Ben Mankiewicz, never rode on it as a child.

"I never even saw it until I was a teenager staying at my Uncle Don's house in Beverly Hills for the summer," he told me Thursday night at a preview for the auction TCM Presents: Treasures From the Dream Factory, which will be held Monday at Bonhams, where the sled is estimated to sell for between \$100,000 and \$200,000.

According to family legend, the 1840s keepsake with the iconic "Rosebud" painted in faded letters was presented

to Herman at a wrap party for the Orson Welles classic by his friend and fellow screenwriter Ben Hecht. It was fitting, because Herman was the one who lured Hecht to Hollywood in 1925 — "with a telegram that read, 'Millions are to be grabbed out here, and your only competition is idiots. Don't let this get around,'" Ben says.

The "Mankiewicz sled," while authentically vintage, never actually appeared in the film and differs in design from the one presented to young Charles Foster Kane, who uses it to shield himself from his new guardian in the 1941 film.

According to Welles, three balsa wood reproductions of that one were made for the scene at the end where the sled is fed into a furnace. Steven Spielberg bought one that survived for \$50,000 in 1982. (At least one of the other sleds was burned for the scene.)

When Herman Mankiewicz died in 1953, the memento went to his son Don (the Oscar-nominated screenwriter of 1958's "I Want to Live!"), who died in April. The sled was consigned by Don's son, John, a screenwriter best known as the executive producer of "House of Cards."

Herman's Oscar for writing "Citizen Kane" went to his other son, Frank (Ben's father), who died in 2014. In 2012, he put it up for auction, where it fetched \$588,455.

"My dad was not a sentimental man," Ben says of his political-adviser father, who was Robert F. Kennedy's press secretary for his 1968 campaign. "The Oscar cost so much to insure that he kept it in a safe deposit box. He figured that if we couldn't see it, there was not much point in hanging onto it."

The TCM host says he wasn't interested in old movies when he first saw the "Citizen Kane" sled.

"We didn't talk about show business around the dinner table," recalls Ben. "If you wanted attention, you'd have to complain about how disappointing President Carter was."

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Saturday, September 12, 2015

The Charcoal Pit Tragedy.



North Madison, Connecticut, was rural and sparsely populated in the 1880s. The land was rough and rocky and the soil hard to cultivate; charcoal manufacturing was the chief occupation of people living there. Among those eking out a living, farming and making charcoal in North Madison, was the Johnson family. The

parents long dead, two brothers and two sisters lived together in a long low white house about a mile from the turnpike. Though all were verging on, or well past, forty years of age none had ever married. The sisters kept house, while the older brother, Edgar worked the farm, and the younger brother Eldridge tended a charcoal pit, down the hill about 40 rods from the house.

Charcoal pits require frequent monitoring, and Eldridge Johnson would often spend the night in a small shack built next to the pit. The night of December 2, Eldridge left the house at 10:00 bound for the pit, but when he did not return for breakfast the next morning the family became concerned. Edgar went down to the pit and found his brother stretched out on the smoldering, sod-covered heap of charcoal. His skull had been fractured, his body was bruised and his lower limbs badly burned. The ground around the pit showed signs of a struggle. Eldridge's axe and lantern were missing along with \$41 he was known to have had in his pocket.

The local justice of the peace began an investigation, and two days later the Coroner Bollman and Deputy Sheriff Hull arrived at the scene. No jury was convened or formal testimony taken, but the men listed to all of the local gossip. Suspicion first turned to a neighbor of the Johnsons' a charcoal burner named William Downings. "He is considered a scapegrace," said the *New Haven Register*, "because of his drinking habits, his craving for money, his indolence and his general worthlessness to himself, his family or to the community." A search of Downing's house turned up no bloody clothing and no trace of the missing articles.

Popular suspicion pointed to a different suspect. Twenty-seven year old John Whipper had

lived at the Johnson house for six years, helping at the farm and the charcoal pit. It was well known that the whole Johnson family had a certain dread of Whipper. The previous spring, Alice Johnson, the younger of the two sisters was assaulted by a man in disguise who attempted to rape her. Whipper was believed to be the guilty party, but Alice would not file a complaint. It turned out that she and Whipper were romantically involved and hoped to be married. The brothers strongly disapproved, and after a number of recent quarrels John Whipper was dismissed and sent from the house.

Whipper owned no property, but had set up a charcoal pit on someone else's land and he went to live in the shack near his pit. As Whipper began to look like the guilty man, a number of people came forward claiming that Whipper had threatened to kill Eldridge Johnson. Meanwhile, Coroner Bollman hired a Pinkerton detective from New York, and a more thorough search of Downings house uncovered some bloodstained clothing and a five dollar bill with a spot of blood was traced to Downings. These were sent to a chemist to determine whether or not the blood was human. The prevailing theory was that John Whipper had killed Eldridge Johnson with the help of William Downings.

But the evidence was all circumstantial and no arrests were made. As the winter dragged on, it seemed that the unsolved murder of Eldridge Johnson would join those of Mary Stannard, Jennie Cramer, and Rose Ambler, as examples of Connecticut's inadequate police system.

When the weather cleared, the residents of North Madison began their own investigation. Whipper had sold his charcoal pit and moved to the neighboring town of Guilford. In June an amateur investigator found Eldridge Johnson's long-missing lantern, near the spot where Whipper claimed he slept the night of the murder. This find motivated the sheriff to intensify his investigation. A mill pond across from Whipper's shack was drained until the bottom lay bare, and there he found Johnson's missing axe. John Whipper was arrested on the fourth of July and indicted for the murder of Eldridge Johnson.

The trial of John Whipper began on February 3, 1885, and although the courthouse was filled to capacity, what the spectators saw was far from engrossing. Beyond the description of the body, and the discoveries of the lantern and axe, testimony consisted of anecdotal evidence of at least forty North Madison residents relating circumstances tending to incriminate Whipper. The defense attorney tried to liven things up, now and then, by asking them questions about fishing trips and euchre games, but in the words of the *New Haven Register*, "Never did a murder trial drag along so drearily and uninterestingly as this."

In the end, the testimony was not enough for the jury and John Whipper was acquitted. As predicted, the murder of Eldridge Johnson joined the list of unsolved Connecticut homicides.

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"Whipper is Made Happy." *New Haven Register* 10 Feb 1885.

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The Disturbing Case of the Dark Mirror: Investigating the Haunted Object That's Terrified Hundreds



thedarkmirror

Haunted objects are a fickle thing. Many people claim to own them, some collect them, and even more people sell them. Unfortunately, regardless of how creepy your vintage doll looks or how authentic your cursed idol is, most haunted objects carry a bad case of stage fright, flat out refusing to perform to the public, opting instead to reveal their true nature in the middle of the night, just out of the view of security cameras and skeptics.

For most of us, the closest we'll ever get to experiencing the menace behind a haunted object is when it's inevitably turned into a big screen spinoff of *The Conjuring*.

At least that's what I thought until I met the Dark Mirror, a mysterious piece of glass that's managed to terrify hundreds of people, from skeptics to believers, in just a few short months. Frankly, I've never seen anything like it in my life.

The Traveling Museum of the Paranormal & Occult

Over the last 15 years of tracking down cryptozoological monsters and paranormal mysteries, I've collected a good assortment of items that are allegedly haunted. Some of them are connected to famous cases like The Amityville Horror, most are relics from strange cases I've investigated, and a few of them were simply given to me by their former owners, many of them paranormal researchers themselves.

After awhile, I started to realize that keeping these things locked up in Planet Weird HQ was a waste, so I formed ***The Traveling Museum of the Paranormal and the Occult*** with my wife Dana. Over the last year the museum has visited loads of conferences and events across the country, including many held in some of the most iconic haunted hotspots in paranormal history. We don't sell anything and we don't charge anyone to see the pieces, we just plain enjoy doing it.

As word of the museum spread, so did the size of our display. More and more people began to reach out with stories of their own haunted objects, eager to send us a troublesome Ouija planchette, an eerie painting, or even things as mundane as a patch of graveyard dirt.

You might think with all of these spooky things lining the shelves at Weird HQ, we'd be

08/17/2015 at 4:39 PM

Bring your traveling museum to Atlanta. It would be a huge hit at DragonCon, if nowhere else.

- Week In Weird

08/17/2015 at 4:52 PM

Drop 'em a line and tell them to invite us! Apparently we were on the list of people they were thinking of asking to be part of their paranormal panel this year, but we never got a call. Bummer.

- Jess Meunier

08/17/2015 at 4:55 PM

When are you guys making an appearance in Canada? It would sweet if you came to Ottawa at any point! I want to see this mirror too!

- Week In Weird

08/17/2015 at 5:08 PM

Dana is eager to visit her homeland. Know of any events happening in Ottawa? Drop 'em a line and tell them to invite us!

- Laura Hartman Roland

08/17/2015 at 5:30 PM

Do you have any plans to go to Scarefest? Or ShadowCon in Ft. Wayne. Gatekeeper Paranormal will have a table at ShadowCon!

- Bruce E. White

08/17/2015 at 5:33 PM

I'm on it .

- Week In Weird

08/17/2015 at 6:07 PM

Laura Hartman Roland – we were invited to Scarefest the last few years, even spoke at the last one (a lecture on how to be abducted by aliens, if you're curious), but we didn't get an invite this year, which sucks, because we've always had such a good time. If enough people pester them, maybe they'll have us next year.

No word from ShadowCon... yet!

- Laura Hartman Roland

08/17/2015 at 6:37 PM

You have to be invited? Did not know that. I will send a message to the ShadowCon peeps

- Natasha Collins-Lynn

08/17/2015 at 7:41 PM

Don't bring it by Mackey's!!!

2. Mary Lynch

08/17/2015 at 4:08 PM

You need to bring your show to the UK

Plenty of haunted places over here

- Week In Weird

08/17/2015 at 4:13 PM

Holy cow, if there was a UK event that wanted to host the museum, Planet Weird would be there in a heartbeat.

3. Delia Summerfield

08/17/2015 at 4:44 PM

Wish there were events closer to me. I'd like to see the mirror.

- Week In Weird

08/17/2015 at 5:05 PM

If there are ever any in your area, let 'em know about the Traveling Museum of the Paranormal and we'll be there!

4. Vedant Srivastava

08/17/2015 at 4:47 PM

finally one can get a non snow white response to 'Mirror. Mirror...'

- Week In Weird

08/17/2015 at 5:06 PM

Mirror Mirror in the Museum, who's the scariest ghost? Lemme see him.

• Vedant Srivastava

08/17/2015 at 5:08 PM

you should so totally come to india. lots of cursed artifacts here!

• Week In Weird

08/17/2015 at 5:20 PM

We'd love to! In the meantime, if you stumble across anything particularly weird, drop it in the mail and send it our way. We'll put it on display!

5. Phelan Lyman

08/17/2015 at 12:06 PM

I'd be interested in seeing your exhibit

If you are planning on coming near Massachusetts I'd love to go



• Greg Newkirk

08/17/2015 at 1:33 PM

Hey Phelan! We're always up to bring the museum to any event anywhere. If you know of one happening in Massachusetts, drop 'em a line and ask them to have us. We'll be there!

6. Jackie Guyer

08/17/2015 at 7:39 PM

Too bad they don't come to Missouri. It would be nice to see the mirror and other items.

• Week In Weird

08/17/2015 at 8:15 PM

We were just at the Missouri State Penn a few months ago! If you know of any events in MO that are in need of a traveling museum, let 'em know about us! We'll be there.



• Jackie Guyer

08/17/2015 at 8:17 PM

Wish I'd have known!

• Week In Weird

08/17/2015 at 8:36 PM

We'll be back when we get a chance!

7. The

08/17/2015 at 4:30 PM

I gotta see this mirror! Got a schedule somewhere of where your traveling museum will pop up next?



• Greg Newkirk

08/17/2015 at 6:14 PM

Hey! Right now the only confirmed dates are next month with Strange Escapes at Mackinac Island and we hope to officially announce that we'll be at The Stanley for a Strange Escapes event in April. There's some details on a few more throughout the end of the year that are being worked out, but we'll see what happens. We keep a schedule of our museum events updated over at the Planet Weird website, so if you're ever curious, check there!

Also, don't hesitate to get ahold of events in your area that you'd like to see us at. They don't know to book us if people don't ask!

8. Lesly

08/17/2015 at 5:21 PM

If you make it to Arizona, we would love to check it out!

• Greg Newkirk

08/17/2015 at 6:15 PM

We'd LOVE to come to Arizona!

9. Stacy

08/17/2015 at 6:47 PM

Bring the mirror to Nashville!!!!

10. Natalia

08/17/2015 at 10:04 PM

Oh wow, that was such a fascinating read! Eerily similar to movie called 'Oculus'. If you haven't seen it, you should!

I really hope you visit Toronto, Canada some day soon... (Maybe at the Psychic Fair in April?)

11. Ken Summers

08/17/2015 at 10:15 PM

Proper scrying should be done in a completely dark environment lit by a single candle... but I'm not here to nitpick.

I experimented with scrying in my teens, though it was a normal mirror. Nothing ever happened, as much as I tried. Perhaps it's time for me to give it another go. I've actually looked at scrying mirrors over the past year or so, and they're usually expensive and not quite visually appealing. (I'm so damn picky about occult objects.)

As a divination tool, the mirror has been used to see the future more than anything. Funerals, corpses, accidents... those are the most common visions people have. So for me, it's not surprising. The mirror is doing its job.

What probably freaks me out the most is the science experiment involving photons. Imagine a mirror able to trick you by showing you your evil doppelganger and that reflection stepping out as a flesh and blood person. Calling Rod Serling....

Just a thought: maybe for storage, placing a mirror face-down on its surface to "contain" it and reflect it's reflections back at it, locked in its own image? (Granted, that's just an idea... while it could make things better, it could be a mistake.)

The bell, as John Donne says, tolls for thee. We're constantly reminded of our own mortality. Maybe the black mirror is just reflecting back our own fears instead of manifesting something dark. That could be anything from your own withered corpse gazing back at you or a sizable collection of creepy artifacts suddenly becoming haunted...

12. Stacey

08/18/2015 at 12:29 AM

Guys if you ever go international, we'd love to see you in Australia!!!!!!

13. Sage Salonga

08/18/2015 at 2:06 PM

Kris Griffiths McClintock

14. Dee Johnson

08/18/2015 at 4:32 PM

I had a dream once, when I was in my 20's, where my cousin & I were at an antique auction house & came across an old dresser & mirror. When we looked into it our reflections were us as senior citizens. The thing was the younger you were when you looked into it, the older you would appear. Since one of your claims for the Dark Mirror is, "while others claimed to see themselves age forty years.", I wonder if that's what I would see if I looked into it.

;) • Week In Weird

08/18/2015 at 4:59 PM

Guess you'll just have to look and see, Dee....

15. Patrick

08/18/2015 at 12:27 PM

Does your show ever make it up to Toronto or nearby? I'd love to see what you've got. Would not try the mirror, however.

16. Corey Edward

08/20/2015 at 11:19 AM

Would you be willing to take the Million Dollar Challenge to prove that this mirror is haunted? If it's as haunted as you say, it should be an easy win.

• Greg Newkirk

08/20/2015 at 11:37 AM

I don't think you understand how the million dollar challenge works. It's for people, not things. I have no special powers.

If you actually read the article, I don't think the mirror is haunted per se, at least not in the sense most people are accustomed to. Whatever is happening with the mirror is pretty subjective, aside from the whole thing with pulling its veil off at night.

But hell, they want to fly me out to Vegas and test the mirror, I'm down, though I've got a feeling they won't give two shits.

17. Stranger

08/23/2015 at 5:12 PM

Even looking at these photos of the mirror give me an odd feeling.

• Alysha

09/21/2015 at 10:23 AM

Agreed. Before reading the article I scrolled down to look at the mirror. I got instant shivers and everything just felt WRONG. After that I scrolled quickly by the pictures. Can't look at them.

18. Ray

08/24/2015 at 5:04 PM

All kinds of ideas come to mind for psychological experiments come to mind as I read about this mirror. For starters how about placing it somewhere (a waiting room perhaps) where a large number of people would have the opportunity to look at it, though w/o being prompted to do so. The people would be kept waiting for some time and would later be interviewed about their impressions of the room. Hopefully a few would look into the mirror and if they saw something you could rule out the possibility that they were being influenced by things they had already heard about it.

This is a variation on a classic scenerio where volunteers come in to participate in a psychological experiment but the actual experiment begins before they know it...

That's just for starters! How about placing it in a triangle of mirrors that reflect each other so people can poke their heads in and "peer into infinity"—now that would be CREEPY!!!

19. Lorie

09/02/2015 at 6:45 PM

The last image of the Dark Mirror in this article has a fluctuating bright spot like an upside down crescent that seems to brighten and fade as I look at it. It's in the lower left a bit toward the middle. Very strange.

20. lily ashbury

09/11/2015 at 9:43 PM

Hello you should come to the musuem of science and industry here in new york my husband is on the noard og directors and is opening a gala based on haunted history for halloween appreciate it if tou take in consideration tjanks much.. Lily

21. Coga

09/13/2015 at 4:35 PM

hello all i'm from Denver but would love to see it presented at The Stanley Hotel in Estes Park Colorado. which is the inspiration for the shining of course.

22. Atom

09/29/2015 at 2:51 PM

Just stumbled into this page. Why would sane person do things like staring at a mirror? Or play with occult? Sure today's mind set is that we're here by accident and we are related to monkeys. If someone thinks otherwise is a weakling and normal person is "higher" intelligent that we don't need God or Jesus. It just upsets one's life style. However archeology shows our great great x 10 moms & dads taking worshipping seriously with grave consequences. (You can guess where this is going). If person like you are doing spiritism as a "hobby" nothing is going to happen. Even though experiences proof seriously otherwise. Why play with your life. Do you really think that you can "win" that evil spirit that is giving you a "enjoyable" scare? Why else you can't film "it" if "it" only knows you already belong to "it" and "it" controls your life and you just deny that. There is a spirit world and one book warns gravely not to contact them or worship them because they're going to destroy you. So sake of your soul. Stop. Sooner or later you're going to be part of it and you're not coming back as a "ghost" you're going in a place that you don't want and it is prepared for Devil and "it's" spirits. If you've read these ramblings and I don't care if cuss me to lowest Hell. Remember G_d gave His Son so you don't go to Hell. Read the Bible, start from John 1 and I hope and pray we'll meet in Heaven.

- Greg Newkirk

10/01/2015 at 8:21 AM

K.

23. Antonio Augusto Fagundes Filho

09/30/2015 at 12:22 AM

This mirror is really dangerous. I could perform one thing or two with it.

24. Michelle Borserio

09/30/2015 at 1:29 AM

Interesting item

25. Jaki

10/06/2015 at 2:36 AM

I'd really love to see a video of people looking into this mirror and their reactions. It's just so....odd.

- Greg Newkirk

10/06/2015 at 7:00 AM

Stay tuned, Jaki!

■ Jaki

10/06/2015 at 5:36 PM

Excellent!

) 26. Wendy Z

10/08/2015 at 7:32 AM

A couple of things:

My husband is Russian and one of their funeral traditions is covering all the mirrors on the house so the soul of the deceased doesn't get trapped in them. Also, I own a scrying mirror I bought as a teenager, I just recently found it while moving- I didn't know I still had it. It's square with frosted Celtic designs framing it. I tried it briefly and haven't used it since. I never had a lot of "success" with it except for one instance when I was using it to try to identify the ghosts that were causing paranormal activity in my house. As I stared into the mirror, I watched my face change from my own to that of an older lady to that of a middle aged burly man. I could still see my face a little beneath the other faces. The man gave me the creeps and the overall experience was very unsettling so I never used it again (it's been 15 years). Now that I think about it, I think that when you're scrying with a mirror, you're not supposed to actually look at your reflection, but hold it at an angle so that there is no reflection. Perhaps looking directly into it corrupts the divination with whatever is "haunting" you, literally or figuratively.

• Michael

10/16/2015 at 9:57 AM

I wonder if you were seeing your own past lives? Or spirits with whom you are somehow connected? Thanks for sharing this experience.

■ Wendy Z

10/19/2015 at 1:51 PM

That's an interesting thought, I have always been interested in past lives. I did have ghost who followed me for a while but I didn't see her.

27. Russell

10/12/2015 at 12:09 AM

If the tour ever comes near me, I will consider going just to dare the mirror. I doubt it could show me anything (relating to myself) more disturbing than I already have seen,

and if it could I would definitely want to see it.

But on the other hand, I feel like I shouldn't look into it, I shouldn't give it attention. It shouldn't be fed by me. I shouldn't give it a hold on my mind.

I am always skeptical about random memory cards not working when filming supernatural stuff (since it is an easy thing to claim), but I'll give you the benefit of the doubt.

28. David

10/14/2015 at 9:13 AM

Very interesting read.

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Traveling Museum of the Paranormal and the Occult

swimming in the ectoplasmic residue of a multitude of ghosts, but to be perfectly honest, most of these things don't so much as rattle in the middle of the night, with most of their "creep factor" stemming from a frightening backstory or an off-putting appearance. In fact, it wasn't until this week that we started needing to lock up some of the items at the HQ rather than keep them on display.

Sometimes all it takes is introducing one bad apple and the whole

bushel turns rotten.

The Dark Mirror Arrives: A Brief History of Evil

Back in June, we were approached by a woman about an item that had started to cause particular strain on her family. We'll call her "Sarah". Sarah told us that after visiting a yearly Psychic Expo, her mother had taken an interest in black mirror scrying, purchasing her own mirror at the event.

Even if you don't know it by name, if you've ever seen someone gaze into a crystal ball, you're familiar with the concept of scrying. Since at least the 10th century, scryers have used reflective stones, bowls of water, and dark glass in order to induce a trancelike state they use to see the future, speak with the dead, or perform certain magic rituals. Hell, **Joseph Smith even used scrying to help found the Latter Day Saints movement back in the 1820s.**

Thanks to popularization by folks like **Rosemary Ellen Guiley**, scrying is starting to see a bit of a modern resurgence, but not in the pop-culture form which most people are familiar with. Instead of using a crystal ball, "black mirrors" have become the preferred method of divination, and it's not hard to find them on Etsy, eBay, or lining booths at New Age Expos like the one Sarah's mother attended.

Sarah told us that in the weeks that followed the expo, her mother became increasingly distant as she practiced her scrying with the new mirror. When she could manage to get her mother on the phone, her conversations were vacant and full of "gloom and doom". Eventually, Sarah's mother confided that no matter how hard she tried, her scrying attempts were less than successful. In fact, she believed that there was something wrong with her mirror.

As Sarah's mother became more and more withdrawn and obsessed with perfecting her divination, Sarah finally decided to step in, visiting her mother's home and demanding to see the mirror herself. Her mother, visibly distraught, opened a closet and pulled out a small frame draped in a black veil. When Sarah asked her mother why she'd been keeping the mirror covered and locked away, she broke down in tears and replied that it was simply



the-dark-scrying-mirror-haunted-object

“evil”. Sarah kept the mirror wrapped in its cloth, stuffed it in a box, and took it home with her.

Shortly afterwards, Sarah got in touch with us and admitted that while she had decided to chalk most of the events up to an elderly woman taking her hobbies too seriously, she still couldn't shake the heebie-jeebies the scrying mirror gave her. Under the condition of anonymity (and regular updates), she donated the mirror the *Traveling Museum of the Paranormal and the*

Occult. We cleared a display space for it in the living room, and like most of our items, it sat there quietly and without issue.

As curious as I was, I'd only taken a peek at the mirror. Why? Because I was scared. Not scared of the mirror's alleged powers, but scared that it would have no effect, thus ruining my enthusiasm for an interesting artifact with a spooky history. For about a week, the mirror sat on the mantle, no different than any other frame in the house, save for its black veil.



cursed-dark-mirror-pennhurst

The Woman Who Saw Her Own Corpse

On the morning of June 20th, we surveyed our weird collection of paranormal ephemera and began packing up the pieces we wanted to display at the museum's latest stop: the Perryville Battlefield in support of *Ghost Adventures'* Nick Groff. Eager to share the new object and its story, I grabbed the scrying mirror and placed it in our travel box. This would be its first time on public display.

It's not an unusual occurrence for the *Traveling Museum of the Paranormal* to draw a crowd before being completely set up, and within minutes of unloading our boxes, guests were already inquiring as to what was hidden under the black veil. After recounting the history of the item, I reiterated one of the biggest draws of our traveling display: if you'd like to hold it, use it, experiment with it, or test it, be our guest, the caveat being that you do so only at your own risk. One woman waved her arms and bellowed a hearty “hell no!”, others pursed their lips and squinted their eyes while they weighed the pros and cons, but one woman wasted no time reaching down, grabbing the mirror, and ripping off the veil. She only gazed into the glinting black glass for about thirty seconds before her expression changed from incredulity to

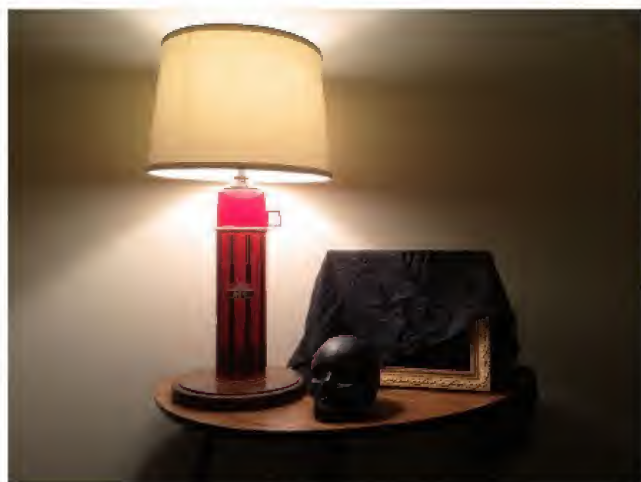
horror. She quickly slammed the frame face down on the table, her eyes wide with shock.

“So, what did you just see?” I nervously inquired.

“I saw my own decomposing corpse looking back at me,” she stammered. “That’s a dark mirror. I should not have done that. I need to go say a prayer. Excuse me.”

The lady wandered off quietly, and the name stuck. For the rest of the event, guests were whispering about the Dark Mirror, some eventually building up the courage to come and try it out for themselves. For many, the scariest thing they saw was their own reflection, but for the rest, the negative reactions were coming in so often and so aggressively that I began to wonder if I needed to rework our disclaimer.

Reports of strange visions, warping faces, and a general sense of dread were pouring in from the mirror gazers. Later in the evening, one woman decided to press her palm to the surface of the black glass and wound up spending the next two hours violently polishing the mirror in an attempt to get the imprint to disappear. She too had claimed to see her own corpse in the reflection, along with other visions she refused to repeat, and it wasn’t until she threatened to smash the mirror that her palm finally faded from the glass.



cursed-mirror-at-home

The mirror wasn’t quite the same when we brought it home, or maybe I wasn’t. After we had unpacked our collection and returned the items to their usual places, I began to notice myself staring “off into space”, and when snapped back to awareness, realizing that I’d been staring at the covered mirror the whole time. I’d started to feel a strong urge to gaze into black glass. Maybe I was just subconsciously weirded out by the disturbing reports of those who’d gazed, but I couldn’t shake the feeling that the mirror *wanted* me to use it. Whether it was own mind playing tricks on me or not, I resisted.

The Taste of Blood: The Dark Mirror Gets Physical

The following month, the museum was visiting Pennsylvania’s infamous Pennhurst Asylum when the mirror once again became the centerpiece for weirdness. We still had an hour to go before doors opened to the public, but the caretakers of the property, the **Pennhurst Paranormal Association**, were checking out the table and inquired about the mirror. As usual, I gave the history and then the option to try it out themselves. One woman, who referred to herself as the group skeptic, decided to give it a whirl. Moments later she was telling us that she’d watched her mouth whisper to her even though we could all vouch that her mouth had never moved.

Throughout the rest of the night, the reports from gazers were twice as creepy as before, if

not more-so. One particularly large and imposing man, upon seeing the commotion the mirror was causing, shrugged off the warnings from bystanders and laughed as held the mirror at arm's length and stared deeply, only to stagger backwards and nearly drop the piece, yelling a string of profanities the whole time. The man claims he'd watched another person, who looked exactly like himself, peer around from behind his reflection and walk away.



the-dark-mirror-pennhurst

Unlike the Perryville Battlefield event, the experiences this time weren't simply constrained to visual strangeness. Nearly half a dozen gazers reported the feeling of electricity coursing from the mirror's frame as they held it, even rubbing their sore arms afterwards. Some complained of headaches after staring into it. One woman vividly described the feeling, and taste, of her mouth filling with blood.

When it came time for the guests to begin their paranormal investigations of

the property, Jennifer Kirkland, one of the organizers of the **Nick Groff Tour** and investigator with **SHOCK Paranormal**, took the Dark Mirror to one of Pennhurst's quiet rooms for her own experiment. Half an hour later she returned, her eyes wide, telling us how she'd watched people who weren't there mill around the empty room.

When we arrived home from the event, I placed the Dark Mirror back on its usual shelf and collapsed from exhaustion after an eight hour drive. When I woke up, I noticed that both of our cats were sitting in the chair at the far end the living room, doing that hilarious head-bobble thing they do when they see a squirrel out the window. That's when I realized that not only do they never sit in the same chair at once, but that they weren't looking out the window at all. They were looking at the mirror... and it was uncovered, its veil lying on the floor.

Sure, maybe the cats pulled the veil off and got spooked. Maybe I was so tired after the drive that I made a half-assed attempt at covering the mirror before giving up and crashing. Maybe the wind did it. As I picked the frame up and went to cover it, the cats scattered and ran into the next room. In fact, the cats would go nowhere near the mirror, even going into hiding when presented with it.

For the next several days it continued. Each morning we'd walk into the living room, pausing quietly when we found the unveiled mirror glinting in the sunlight. The mirror was uncovering itself at night.

I pulled out the motion activated trail camera that we'd snagged for our Bigfoot hunting adventures, mounted it on a tripod, and for the next week, pointed it at the Dark Mirror every night before bed.

Not only did I find the mirror uncovered three out of those seven nights, but the camera



the-dark-mirror-on-display-paranormal-museum

memory card was empty each time. No cats, no wind, nothing. Even stranger, on day seven, I went to check the SD card, only to find it had been corrupted. I can tell that it has nearly 100 megabytes of used space, but it refuses to open. Any attempt to even format the card fails, creating a status bar that keeps growing to infinity.

Live On Air: The Ohio State Reformatory Incident

A few weeks ago, we displayed the museum at Ohio State Reformatory (where I'd

previously had a frightening experience that I still can't explain) for **Unity: A Journey of Hope's** annual **LOCKDOWN** fundraiser, and again, the Dark Mirror was willing to perform. No corpses this time, but instead, at least three separate guests reported watching a "black mass" hover near their left shoulder, while others claimed to see themselves age forty years.

The highlight though, came when Brock and Dave, the guys from Paramania Radio, invited me to sit down for a live interview, during which someone hands me the mirror. I'm sure you can tell where this is going.



reed-and-ashton-masterston-gazing-in-the-dark-mirror

After a bit of coaxing from Dave, who was back in studio, Brock, who was seated next to me, decided that he would give the mirror a try live on air. With an exclamation of "holy shit!", Brock described watching his face distort as a twisted grin spread across his face. He covered it up and refused to look into it any further. **You can hear the broadcast here** (the bit with the mirror starts around 1:28.25).

That about brings us up to date, and to the current issue with which we're attempting to deal with at Weird HQ. You see, it seems that

that Dark Mirror is a bad influence. Not just on the people who dare to gaze into it, but on the objects that it's displayed with. Suddenly and for the first time, many of the objects that were presented to us as haunted are starting actually act that way; the Haunted Painting as finally tossed itself from a wall, the creepy doll named Ruby has mysteriously disappeared, and while neither of us have seen it, we're pretty sure we've heard the charred Ouija planchette sliding around in its glass display case late at night.

For that reason, we don't keep the mirror on display in our living room anymore. Instead, we've wrapped it in a sheet, draped a rosary over it, and locked it in a chest. It's only been a few days, but so far, nothing out of the ordinary, and the other objects seem back to "normal",

or as normal as they can get, anyway.



cursed-dark-mirror-gazing

Feeding on Fear: Reflections on the Dark Mirror

After coming into possession of the Dark Mirror and watching hundreds of people have their own terrifying experiences while using it, it's our belief that the piece isn't exactly "haunted" per se, but an object that seems to feed on human interaction, even fear. In the beginning, The Dark Mirror was just another object with an intriguing story behind it, but as we began to feed it a steady stream of freaked out

experiencers in haunted locations across the country, it became pretty easy to see that the mirror was affected by all the attention. It took Sarah's mother several weeks of regular, individual scrying sessions for her interactions with the mirror to come to a head, but for three months we've been feeding it a veritable all-you-can-eat buffet.

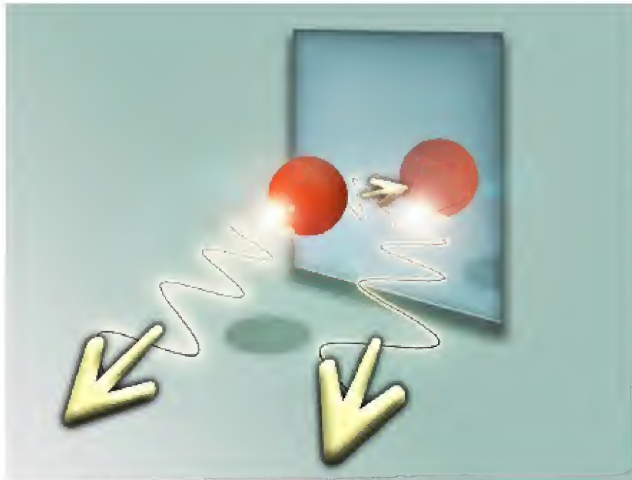
While we're still in the very early stages of experimenting with the mirror, it's clear that it has an effect on its surroundings, enhancing and influencing already strange objects and places. After being handled by a few hundred people and reintroducing it to Weird HQ, many items which never showed any kind of activity started to exhibit anomalous behavior. Objects that were allegedly haunted started to actually *act* haunted for the first time. But why?

It's as if the Dark Mirror is acting as a kind of battery. After each event, the phenomena that the mirror exhibits gets a little harder to ignore, leading me to believe that by allowing the brave and the curious gaze into the mirror, not to mention doing so in some of the world's most haunted places, we're "charging it". In turn, it seems like the "juice" gets used not just by the Dark Mirror, but by other objects as well.

There is some precedence for this kind of "storage". Throughout history, a number of cultures believed that mirrors had the power to capture energy, even souls. Serbo-Croatian cultures would bury their dead with a mirror in order to trap the soul of the deceased, preventing it from wandering the Earth for the rest of eternity. Even before that, mirrors were believed to act a kind of portal to the "spiritual realm", and that they could be used to capture and contain evil spirits... only to release them later.

Like most folklore, it's easy to for some to dismiss these stories as tales told by the uneducated during superstitious time periods, but even modern day science lends credibility to the claim that mirrors can store energy. In fact, a lot of research into green energy is invested in the use of mirrors to trap and contain sunlight.

Now for something *really* spooky. In 2011, a team of physicists claimed that they were able to use mirrors to turn "virtual" photons into real photons.



quanten_i

“According to theory, a mirror can absorb energy from virtual photons onto its surface and then re-emit that energy as real photons. The effect only works when the mirror is moving through a vacuum at nearly the speed of light — which is almost impossible for everyday mechanical devices.”

Did you catch that? What these physicists are saying is that they were able to take a reflection and pull it from the mirror and into reality. Granted, it takes a vacuum, the speed of light, and boatload of cash, but the

precedent is there. If a photon that only exists in a reflection can pop out of a mirror and into reality, could something larger? Makes you think twice about playing “Bloody Mary”, doesn’t it?

Continued Observation of the Dark Mirror

Considering what we’ve seen from the Dark Mirror in just the last three months, the question now is, “should we continue to bring such an object to events?”

Of course! So far, while most experiences with the mirror have been downright scary, they haven’t been dangerous. Nothing has been flown through the air, no one has been possessed, and no one’s eyes have exploded. Yet. Why shouldn’t we share the mirror with as many investigators as possible? After all, how often has anyone had a strange object that liked performing in front of a crowd?



museum-of-the-paranormal's-dark-mirror

The whole purpose of the *Traveling Museum of the Paranormal and the Occult* is to offer the curious the ability to get up close in personal with allegedly haunted items while allowing paranormal investigators test the objects for themselves. It’s rare enough to see someone who owns a haunted item offer it up for public scrutiny, and even rarer to find an item that so regularly interacts with a crowd. It seems like a real waste to keep that kind of thing locked up in a case or bound at the bottom of a river,

particularly when so many are looking to have a paranormal experience of their own.

As we continue to pack up the Dark Mirror for events across the country, now with the added step of unlocking the big wooden chest where it’s stored, I’m just as excited as I am nervous

to see what kind of charge it gets from the next crowd. Will we manifest a full body apparition? Can we get the mirror to intelligently interact with the latest ghost hunting gadgets? Will someone's eyes explode? There's only one way to find out, but I still won't look into it.

Next month the *Traveling Museum of the Paranormal and the Occult* is scheduled to appear **on a friggin' haunted island** with **Strange Escapes**, and I'm more curious than ever to see how the Dark Mirror acts after being cooped up in a locked chest all month.

Just remember, you gaze at your own risk.

Greg Newkirk

59 Comments

1. Laura Hartman Roland

08/17/2015 at 3:19 PM

I really want to see this mirror

- Week In Weird

08/17/2015 at 3:27 PM

We've gotta bring it by Bobby Mackey's sometime. Whether that's a good idea or not, I don't know, haha.

- Sarah

08/21/2015 at 7:16 PM

Ohhh No no nooo,no way should that thing get near Bobby Mackey's place!. I don't know how he(Bobby) can be so stubborn. The ast I read or saw about his place he's still saying it isn't haunted. But then again,that ould hopefully make a believer out of him. And ya know, HE'D have to give the mirror a try just to prove his point.

- Laura Hartman Roland

08/17/2015 at 3:35 PM

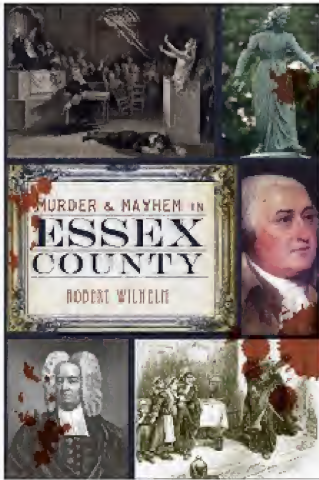
I think it's an awesome idea.

We'll have to work on that!

- Bruce E. White

Saturday, October 31, 2015

The Devil in Essex County.



In honor of Halloween, I am switching, this week, from nineteenth century murder to seventeenth century witchcraft. Everyone knows of the mass hysteria surrounding the Salem witch trials in 1692, but as this excerpt from my book, **Murder and Mayhem in Essex County**, points out, fear of witchcraft, in Massachusetts, did not begin or end with the witch trials, and accusations of demonic possession spread far beyond the borders of Salem.

The Devil in Essex County.

Without a doubt the most nefarious events ever to take place in Essex County, Massachusetts, were the trials and executions of twenty women and men, and the imprisonment of dozens more, between 1692 and 1693, for practicing witchcraft. The witch trials in Salem have become synonymous with mass hysteria and injustice, and have left an indelible stain on the reputation of Salem, Massachusetts. The notion of accusing and punishing witches has become so tightly bound to Salem as to leave the impression that it was an isolated incident, a brief moment of insanity limited to that place and time, ending as suddenly as it began. In fact, accusations of witchcraft had a long history in Essex County, which neither began nor ended in Salem.



The Puritan worldview included many unseen entities and forces; they were surrounded by devils and demons, as well as the presence of God. Everything that happened in the physical world was a manifestation either of God's will or the influence of the devil. If a man had a toothache, it was evidence that he had somehow sinned with his teeth. If a cow took sick, it was likely possessed by a demon. People as well, were either

following the will of the Lord, or were under the devil's influence. Sometimes the devil's presence in a man or woman was too pronounced to be overlooked. As early as 1652, forty years before the Salem trials, a man in Ipswich was sentenced to pay 20 shillings or be whipped for "having familiarity with the devil."

In the decade before the witch trials, the Reverend John Hale twice had to deal with charges of witchcraft in the town of Beverly. Dorcas Hoar, known to own a book on palmistry, was believed to have advanced to more serious sorcery. Bridget Bishop, who owned two taverns and was fond of wearing a “red paragon bodice” trimmed in lace, was accused of malefaction in the death of a neighbor. Both of these women had been “called out” as witches by residents of Beverly, but Reverend Hale was slow to believe them evil and used his influence to clear the charges.

For many years, Wilmot Redd (sometimes spelled Reed), known as Mammy, was feared as a witch in the town of Marblehead. Mammy Redd was believed to have a malignant touch and sight, which she used to cast spells over those she wished to injure. She allegedly could bring sickness and death by merely wishing that a “bloody cleaver” might be found in the cradle of an infant child. One Marblehead woman claimed that she could not urinate for two weeks after being cursed by Mammy Redd. And, most notably, Mammy Redd had the ability to curdle milk and turn butter to “blue wool,” a trait that inspired this bit of rhyme:

Old Mammy Redd
Of Marblehead,
Sweet milk could turn
To mould in churn

Prior to the Salem trials, the most notorious witch in Essex County was Susana Martin of Amesbury who was first brought to court on charges of witchcraft in 1669 for allegedly bewitching a neighbor. The charges were dropped, but stories of her evil powers continued for the next twenty-three years. John Allen had put out fourteen head of cattle to feed on the salt grass at Salisbury Beach. The cows ran away from him “with violence ... wholly diabolic” and were goaded by the devil to swim to Plum Island, and then out to sea. Only one cow came to her senses and returned to shore. At first Allen wondered what sin he had committed to earn God’s punishment, then he remembered that he had refused to hitch his ox cart to haul staves for Susana Martin and in a shrill, spiteful voice she had said, “Your oxen will never do you much service.” Surely, it was Susana who had sent the devil into his cattle.

People in Amesbury believed that Susana Martin had the ability to change her shape at will. One woman saw her melt into empty space then materialize in the form of birds that “pecked and pinched.” She appeared to Robert Downs as a cat and would have killed him if he had not driven her off by saying “Avoid, thou she-devil! In the name of God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost, avoid!”

In general, even when a community believed there were witches in their midst, the suspects were seldom charged, and if charged, were seldom prosecuted. There was a Catch 22 in prosecuting witches under Puritan law: the testimony of those bewitched was the “devil’s evidence” and could not be trusted. But when the door was opened by the Salem trials, all of these women—Dorcas Hoar, Bridget Bishop, Mammy Redd, and Susana Martin—were tried, convicted, and sentenced to hang.

So what happened in Salem Village in 1692 to change things so drastically? In May 1692, the Reverend Henry Gibbs, a visiting minister from Watertown watched the trial of Andover's Martha Carrier, charged with being the "Queen of Hell." After witnessing her accusers alternate between trancelike drones and earsplitting shrieks, with the queen herself refuting the charges in a voice even louder, he wrote in his diary, "Wonders I saw, but how to judge and conclude I am at a loss." Three hundred years later we are still at a loss to conclude the root cause of the hysteria in Salem, but the steps leading up to it are well recorded.

It began in the home of the Reverend Samuel Parris. Reverend Parris had spent some time in Barbados, and had come to Salem Village with two slaves; Tituba, a woman who was probably part African and part Native American, and her husband, John Indian. While not as common in New England as it was in the southern plantations, slavery was not against Puritan law, and many wealthy households employed slave labor.



Tituba and the Children.

Reverend Parris's nine-year-old daughter Elizabeth (called Betty), and her cousin seventeen-year-old Abigail Williams, who also lived with the Parris family, loved to listen to Tituba talk of her life in Barbados. The girls, especially Abigail, would push her to talk of spells, charms and the superstitions of her homeland. Abigail was probably most interested in fortunetelling which, though forbidden, was somewhat in vogue in the Puritan community at the time. A number of women were indulging in, what Cotton Mather called, "little sorceries," using sieves, scissors, and candles to foretell the future.

Books of palmistry were also in circulation among the otherwise righteous Puritan women of Essex County.

As the word of their talks with Tituba spread among the adolescent girls of Salem Village, the circle grew to include at least eight more girls ranging in age from twelve to twenty as well as three married women. Just what they were learning from Tituba is not known, but it was certainly not knowledge of the Lord. The girls formed a tight bond of secrecy and were closer to each other than they were to anyone else.

Betty and Abigail began exhibiting aberrant behavior during prayers in the Parris home. Reverend Parris noticed that Betty was not bowing her head, but sitting in a trancelike state. When he admonished her she began to bark like a dog. Abigail's symptoms were even more extreme; she would get down on all fours and, while barking and braying like an animal, would hide under the furniture and sometimes go into convulsions. When the Lord's Prayer was begun, Betty would scream at the top of her lungs and Abigail would cover her ears and stamp her feet to drown out the words.

The Parris family tried to keep the problem to themselves, but word of Betty and Abigail's strange behavior quickly spread, and as it did, as if by contagion, the behavior would manifest itself in the homes of other members of their circle. First Mary Walcott and Susana Sheldon

suffered convulsions at the Walcott house, then Ann Putnam, then Ann and Mercy Lewis. This continued until there were afflicted girls in all parts of Salem Village.

Unable to explain the phenomenon, Reverend Parris called in a medical professional. Dr. Griggs examined Betty and Abigail and, after ruling out epilepsy and all other ailments in his limited repertoire, he declared that the "The evil hand is on them."

The girls' behavior became more public and more extreme as they interrupted church services and prayer meetings. But now that they knew the girls were bewitched, the people of Salem Village were less concerned with the girls' behavior than they were with finding out who had bewitched them. The afflicted girls remained silent on this; though they were pressured to talk, they would not say who was responsible. Finally Betty, who had been the most conflicted, believing herself already damned, blurted out Tituba's name. Once Betty had broken, all the girls said Tituba, but they added the names of two women who were generally disliked by the community: Sarah Good and Sarah Osborn.

On February 29, 1692 the women were arrested, even Sarah Osborn who was bedridden at the time. They all pled innocent, but the afflicted girls were present at their hearing and went into convulsions when the accused women spoke. Tituba was beaten by her master when she denied the charges, but eventually she learned to give the white men what they wanted to hear. She admitted to being a witch, that the devil had asked her to serve him with four other women; two of the four were Good and Osborn. She also told of a ride they had all taken on a stick or pole. This was enough; all three were sent to jail in Ipswich.

Then the hysteria began. Martha Corey, who had expressed skepticism over the girls' bewitchment, was called out as a witch. Rebecca Nurse, previously considered among the most righteous women in Salem Village, was accused. Then Dorcas Good, a little girl between four and five years old, was condemned. The charges continued as more and more residents of Salem Village were arrested for witchcraft. The accused were strongly pressured to confess, and those who did not confess ran the risk of having all of their female relatives arrested as well.

Those who did confess fared better than those who did not. The accused witches and wizards who did not confess were brought to trial, and all who were tried were found guilty and sentenced to death. On June 10, 1692, Sarah Bishop was hanged on Gallows Hill in Salem Village. On July 19, five more visited Gallows Hill—Rebecca Nurse, Sarah Good, Elizabeth How, Sarah Wild, and Susana Martin. Giles Corey, in his eighties, had been persuaded to testify against his wife Martha, but later came to his senses and recanted his testimony. When brought to court to answer his own charges, Corey refused to speak. And after failing to speak in three trials he was taken to a field, stripped of his clothing, and pressed to death by piling stones on a board placed on his body. August 19, Martha Carrier and Reverend George Burroughs—"the king and queen of hell"—were hanged along with four other men. On September 22, seven witches and one wizard—"eight firebrands of hell," Reverend Nicholas Noyes called them—were hanged together on Gallows Hill.

Around the time of Martha Carrier's trial, Joseph Ballard of Andover began to suspect that his wife had been bewitched. She had been bedridden for a long time with an illness that the local doctors could not diagnose. Ballard decided he needed an outside opinion and sent for the afflicted girls of Salem Village.

Twelve-year-old Ann Putnam, accompanied by sixteen-year-old Mary Wolcott, rode to Andover on horseback. Unlike Salem Village, where a certain segment of the population had always harbored suspicions of the afflicted girls—albeit less vocally as the danger increased—in Andover they were treated like royalty. The girls were taken to the home of Thomas Ballard to see his sick wife, then to sickrooms in other houses, and in every case saw the same spectral vision: one witch standing at the patient's head and another at his feet. Often when the girls reported their vision, other young people in the house would howl and convulse, claiming they saw the spirits too.

Because they were in a strange town, the girls could not identify the witches by name so a "touch test" was proposed by a conclave of civic-minded citizens, which included Reverend Bernard and Justice of the Peace, Dudley Bradstreet. In each house the residents would be led blindfolded to the girls, who would then touch each one with their hands. If the girls gasped or trembled, the phenomenon, witnessed by all present, would prove that the person touched was a witch.

The problem for Andover was that this test returned positive results as often as not. Though at the start no one expected to find more than six or seven witches, the community now had more witches than it could handle. After signing forty arrest warrants, Justice Bradstreet declared he would sign no more, though more witches had been accused. Bradstreet himself was cried out as a wizard. Another problem was that, unlike Salem Village, where the girls began by accusing those that the community agreed were the likeliest suspects, in Andover the girls did not know the character of the people and were just as likely to accuse an upstanding citizen as they were an outcast.

Incredibly, most of the accused, though astonished to be exposed as witches, could not deny such compelling evidence and began searching their memories for openings they may have given the devil. Mary Osgood, whose husband was a church deacon, remembered that, twelve years earlier, after the birth of her last child, she had been ill and unhappy. No doubt the devil caught her then.

Samuel Wardwell remembered that he had sometimes said "the devil take it" when an animal got into his field. Then he recalled that at the time of his unrequited love for maid Barker he had seen an assemblage of cats. Under further interrogation from the magistrates, Wardwell recalled that the "Prince of the Air" (Satan) had been with the cats and had made him promises, sworn him to a covenant for sixty years, and baptized him in the Shaw Shin (now called Shawsheen) River.

William Barker said he had joined the devil because he had tired of the Puritan's preoccupation with damnation, and found appealing the devil's promise that all men would be

equal and "live bravely." He also claimed to know that there were exactly 307 practicing witches in Essex County.

But the accusations were especially hard on the most devout Puritans, who refused to lie, even to save their own lives. Ann Foster would not confess when reproached by her daughter and granddaughter for not admitting she had led them to the devil, because she knew it was not true. Mary Tyler, coerced by her brother to confess, refused saying, "For I shall lye if I confess and who shall answer to God for my lye."

At its height, the frenzy in Andover was even greater than it was in Salem Village. Accusations continued there until October 1692, when a dog was shot to death after a convulsing Andover girl claimed that its specter had afflicted her. This was troubling to Reverend Increase Mather, who had been involved in the prosecution of witches. If the dog was actually a devil in disguise, he reasoned, no one would have been able to kill it. Since the dog had been killed it could not have been capable of magic. The same month, some Andover girls accused "a worthy gentleman of Boston." The worthy gentleman turned around and swore out a writ against his accusers demanding a thousand pounds for defamation. The threat of lawsuits effectively ended accusation of witchcraft in Andover, but not before one of its citizens had been hanged, and at least fifty more were imprisoned, awaiting trial.

Also in October, the people of Salem Village began to have serious doubts about the afflicted girls when the wife of Reverend John Hale of Beverly was cried out. Hale, who had at first been reluctant to prosecute witches, had become one of the leaders of the prosecution.

But accusations still did not end. Later in October, the Town of Gloucester sent for the girls. In July the town had fought off an invasion of devils that had swarmed out of the swamp. The garrison that fought them knew they were spectral because bullets could not stop them. The afflicted girls called out four witches in Gloucester, but upon returning to Salem had trouble finding lodging, and eventually ended up in Ipswich. In November, they were called again to Gloucester. While crossing the Ipswich Bridge they met an old woman and went into their usual fits, accusing her of witchcraft. But Ipswich had not sent for the girls and the people there were fed up with witchcraft; the antics were ignored. There were no further accusations.

A group of twelve citizens of Andover, led by Reverend Francis Dane, one of the few heroes of witchcraft hysteria, petitioned the governor to release, on bail, their wives and children, some as young as eight years old. They were facing a cold winter in prisons that were old and in disrepair, and were never intended to hold so many. This was followed by petitions from Topsfield, Gloucester, Haverhill and Chelmsford. Governor Phipps agreed to release those who were held only on spectral evidence, the rest he made the charge of the judges, who would be responsible for their welfare.

In January, the Massachusetts Bay Colony moved to continue the witch trials with some significant differences. The trials would not be held in Salem; the location would be determined by the home of the accused. And, most importantly, spectral evidence would be disallowed. Because of this rule, charges were dropped against forty-nine of the fifty-two awaiting trial. In the end, Governor Phipps pardoned the remaining three along with everyone

already convicted of witchcraft. That spring, as if waking from a long and horrible nightmare, the people of Essex County did their best to put the memory of the witch trials behind them.

From ***Murder and Mayhem in Essex County*** by Robert Wilhelm, History Press, 2011.

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The embalmed heart of Richard the Lionheart (1199 A.D.): a biological and anthropological analysis

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During the Middle Ages, the partition of the cadaver of the elite members was a current practice, with highly technical treatment given to symbolic organs such as the heart. Considered mostly from a theoretical point of view, this notion of *dilaceratio corporis* has never been biologically explored. To assess the exact kind of embalming reserved to the heart, we performed a full biomedical analysis of the mummified heart of the English King Richard I (1199 A.D.). Here we show among other aspects, that the organ has been embalmed using substances inspired by Biblical texts and practical necessities of desiccation. We found that the heart was deposited in linen, associated with myrtle, daisy, mint, frankincense, creosote, mercury and, possibly, lime. Furthermore, the goal of using such preservation materials was to allow long-term conservation of the tissues, and good-smelling similar to the one of the Christ (comparable to the odor of sanctity).

Richard I, King of England (nicknamed “Richard the Lionheart” because of his reputation as a courageous warrior and military leader) has been a central Christian commander during the 3rd Crusade after the departure of Philippe-Auguste, King of France, fighting against his Muslim counterpart, Saladin (1189–1192). He died in Châlus (close to Limoges, in the Centre of France) on the 6th of April 1199, 12 days after a wound he suffered at the left shoulder close to the cervical vertebra from a French arbalest while fighting without any chain mail¹. Cause of death was reasonably gangrene and/or septicæmia, even if some fantasized about a poisoning caused by toxics deposited on the arbalest’s arrow².

According to the common medieval practices, a partition of the cadaver was performed, the internal abdominal and thoracic organs (entrails) were placed within a coffin in Châlus, the heart was embalmed separately and deposited in the church of Notre-Dame in Rouen (head of the English occupation of Normandy territories at that period), and the rest of the body was inhumed at Fontevraud Abbey, close to his father the King Henry II (and later to his mother Eleanor of Aquitaine)¹. The partition of the body was widespread among the aristocracy at that time³; indeed, 16 years before his death, his brother Henri *au court mantel* had received a double grave: entrails, eyes and brain were deposited in Grandmont, while the rest of the embalmed body was inhumed in the church of Notre-Dame in Rouen¹.

An intact 12.2 × 23 × 17 cm lead box containing the remains of Richard’s heart – a brown-whitish powder – was discovered on the 31st of July 1838 by the local historian Achille Deville close to the funeral effigy of king Richard I during excavations of the Rouen cathedral⁴. The sealed box was engraved with a funerary inscription (HIC IACET COR RICARDI REGIS ANGLORUM, i.e. “Here is the heart of Richard, King of England”) whose characters were typical of the 12th–13th century AD. (Fig. 1a)⁵.

In order to better know the context of the death and *post-mortem* treatment of the organ, we submitted samples of the embalmed heart to a complete biomedical analysis (chemistry, palinology, anthropology, paleopathology,



Figure 1 | The heart box of Richard I (photo credit: Musée départemental des Antiquités © Yohann Deslandes/CG76) (A). Actual aspect of the crystal box containing the remains of the mummified heart of Richard I (picture by Philippe Charlier) (B).

microscopy, etc.). Following the will of cultural authorities, for who the authenticity of the remains was everything but dubious, no genetic analysis was carried out. ^{14}C dating was not performed for the following reason: the presence of balm, oil and organic embalming residues may have been at the origin of a huge contamination of the sample and aberrant carbon dating result despite successive solvent extractions, impossible on such a tiny quantity of material.

Results

Preliminary examination under binocular lenses showed the presence of tiny remains of textiles made of linen (a thin equilibrated cloth of 50 threads per centimetre in both directions: chain and weft). Simple threads with a moderate Z torsion (Fig. 2a) were compatible with a 12th–13th c. A.D. and European origin⁶.

The optical analysis of the brown-whitish powder showed the presence of numerous vegetal structures, altered cell structures, mineral and crystal formations. No clearly identifiable tissue was visible (heart tissue, e.g. muscle fibres, for example), but the human muscle nature of the altered cell structures was confirmed by a slight to moderate positive signal using antibodies anti-myoglobin (human, MG1) and anti-myosin (human, MY32).

The optical and scanning electron microscopic analysis showed the presence of various pollen grains (Table 1): myrtle, daisy, mint (Fig. 2b), pine, oak, poplar, plantain, bell-flower. Numerous isolated bacteria (*Bacillus* sp.) and fungi (*Aspergillus* sp.) were observed, but of *post-mortem* origin (Fig. 2c and 2d), therefore not related to the cause nor to the manner of death of Richard I. No one parasite was identifiable.

Elemental analyses revealed large amounts of lead and tin, and traces of copper, mercury, and antimony (Table 2)¹¹. Calcium may have been added during the embalming process, as the very slight amount of associated aluminium would eliminate an environmental origin (i.e. a soil contamination)¹¹: indeed, lime (calcium oxide or hydroxide) is known as disinfectant and desiccant¹², and such properties justify its use during an embalming, in association with other products, including plants.

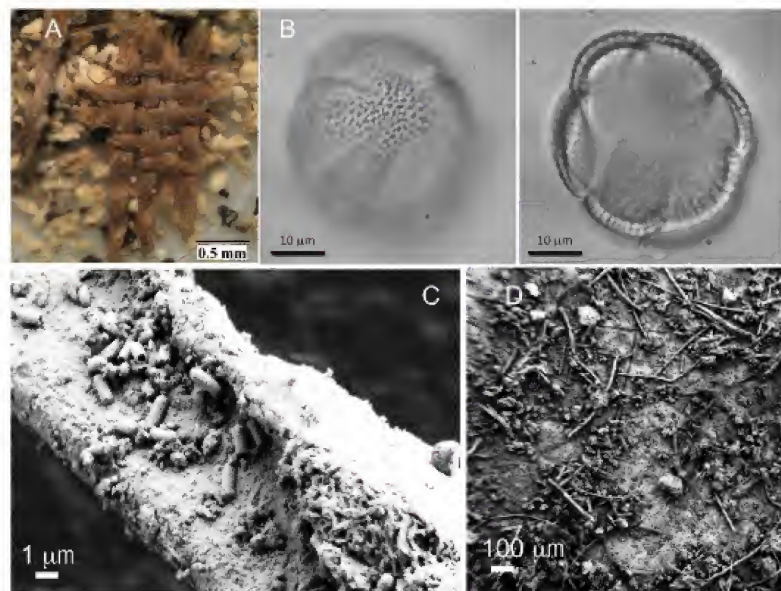


Figure 2 | Detail of the textile fragments and whitish organic powder under binocular lenses (picture by Joël Poupon) (A). Surface view and optical section of a pollen of *Mentha* sp. Lamiaceae under optical microscope (magnification x1000) (picture by Speranta-Maria Popescu) (B). Detail of a group of bacteria (*Bacillus* sp.) within the embalming matter of the mummified heart (SEM, magnification x4840) (picture by Raphaël Weil) (C). General view of the post-mortem development of fungi (*Aspergillus* sp.) within the embalming matter of the mummified heart (SEM, magnification x50) (picture by Raphaël Weil) (D).



Table 1 | Results of palynological analyses on the sample of the white powder from the heart of Richard I

Identified taxa (family, genus and species when possible)	Number of pollen grains	State of preservation of pollen grains	Period of pollination of referred plants	Present-day geographic distribution of referred plants
<i>Pinus</i> , Pinaceae	4	Poor	May-June	(<i>Pinus silvestris</i> [Scots pine], only one specie spontaneous in the north-western Massif Central
<i>Quercus ilex</i> (holm oak), Fagaceae	1	Moderate	April-May	Common in the Mediterranean region, but also distributed in Western France up to Brittany
<i>Plantago</i> (plantain), Plantaginaceae	1	Moderate	> April	<i>Plantago</i> species widely distributed in western France
Campanulaceae	1	Good	> April	Several genera (<i>Campanula</i> i.e. bellflower, <i>Jasione</i> , <i>Phyteuma</i> , etc.) widely distributed in France
<i>Myrtus communis</i> (myrtle), Myrtaceae	3	Good	May-July	Sweet-smelling plant endemic of the Mediterranean region
Asteraceae Asteroideae (chrysanthemums, maybe the species <i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i> (daisy) according to the small size of the pollen grains (<20 µm)	2	Good	May-August	Widely distributed in France
Lamiaceae (<i>Mentha</i> (mint), according to the ornamentation of exine)	1	Good	July-October	<i>Mentha</i> (mint) displays several species living in Western France such as <i>M. silvestris</i> (sweet-smelling plant; blooming July-September), <i>M. viridis</i> (August-October), <i>M. aquatica</i> (July-September), <i>M. arvensis</i> (strong-smelling plant: July-October), and <i>M. Pulegium</i> (strong-smelling plant: July-October)
<i>Populus</i> (poplar), Salicaceae	1	Good	March-April	Three species of <i>Populus</i> (<i>P. alba</i> , <i>P. tremula</i> , <i>P. nigra</i>) widely distributed in France

SPME analyses did not enable us to retrieve pertinent information. Traces of monoterpene were found, mainly limonene. The direct desorption of the white matter (Fig. 3a) permitted to identify triterpenoid compounds with ursane and oleanane type structure (Fig. 4). From these compounds α -amyrin (Urs-12-en-3-ol), β -amyrin (Olean-12-en-3 β -ol), α -amyrenone (Urs-12-en-3-one) and α & β -boswellic acids were identified. These molecules are characteristic of natural gum-resins from the *Burseraceae* family and specifically α & β -boswellic acids characterize olibanum (frankincense)¹⁴. Olibanum resin from Somalia has been analyzed and confirmed this hypothesis (reference material from Kremer Pigmente n°60270, *gummi olibanum somalia* nr. 1, weihrauch).

The direct desorption of the dark matter (Fig. 3b) permitted to identify triterpenoid compounds with ursane and oleanane type structure, the same as mentioned previously. Saturated fatty acids with even number of carbon atoms from C16 to C24 and the unsaturated oleic acid have also been found; these compounds are present in vegetable oils. In addition, eugenol and vanillin have been detected, associated with several phenolic derivative compounds (mainly guaiacol, 4-ethyl guaiacol, 4-vinyl guaiacol, cresol and 2,6-dimethoxy phenol derivatives). This family of substances is characteristic of wood-tar product, creosote type. Creosote is the portion of chemical products obtained by the distillation of a tar that remains heavier than water, notably useful for its anti-septic and preservative properties.

Discussion

The elemental analyses of the white powder found a huge quantity of lead, obviously originating from the reliquary, explaining also the presence of tin, antimony and bismuth, classically found in poorly

purified lead¹⁵ from the Middle Ages¹⁶. Iron may also be attributed to iron hardware of the reliquary. On the contrary, mercury is attested in embalming both in literature and in Medieval and Renaissance mummification practices; for example, Guglielmo of Saliceto in his *Chirurgia* (1275 ca) and the French surgeons Henri de Mondeville (*La chirurgie*, 1306–1320) and Guy de Chauliac (*La grande chirurgie*, 1363) refer to the use of “quicksilver” in the *post-mortem* treatment of bodies; more, mercury was found in the burial of Jean de Lancastre, duke of Bedford (died 1435) in the Rouen cathedral¹⁷, and in the burials of the French Queen Anne de Bretagne (died 1514) and the French King Charles VII (died 1461) in the St Denis basilica¹⁸. In 1866, at the first opening of the grave of the Duke of Bedford, metallic mercury was found in great quantity (11.25% of the mass, i.e. 112,500 µg/g). Non-metallic mercury was not determined. Fifty-two years later, a new and more complete analysis performed by Le Roy showed that total mercury represented 8.03% (80,300 µg/g) of the solid mass, and metallic mercury only 4.08% (40,800 µg/g), the rest (3.85% or 38,500 µg/g) being in a combined form¹⁷. Then, more than fifty years after, 36% of the metallic mercury had disappeared. After several experiments, Le Roy concluded that mercury must have been employed as an emulsion of metallic mercury in a balsamic-like substance¹⁷. The amount of mercury found in Richard’s heart (150 µg/g), even if considerably less than the levels observed in the rest of the Duke of Bedford, may indicate the use of another mercury compound such as mercury chloride (calomel); it cannot be considered in any case as originating from lead impurities, as it is never retrieved in ancient lead¹⁵.

Pollen grains recorded in the heart powder may originate from embalming products and/or airborne contamination. The interpretation of such results needs a comparison with Medieval and

Table 2 | Results of elemental analyses on the white powder from the heart of Richard I

Weight (mg)	Pb (µg/g)	Sn (µg/g)	Sb (µg/g)	Cu (µg/g)	Bi (µg/g)	Hg (µg/g)	Fe (µg/g)	Ca (µg/g)	Al (µg/g)
0.75	183,148	4,280	22	102	13	150	3,580	59,420	700

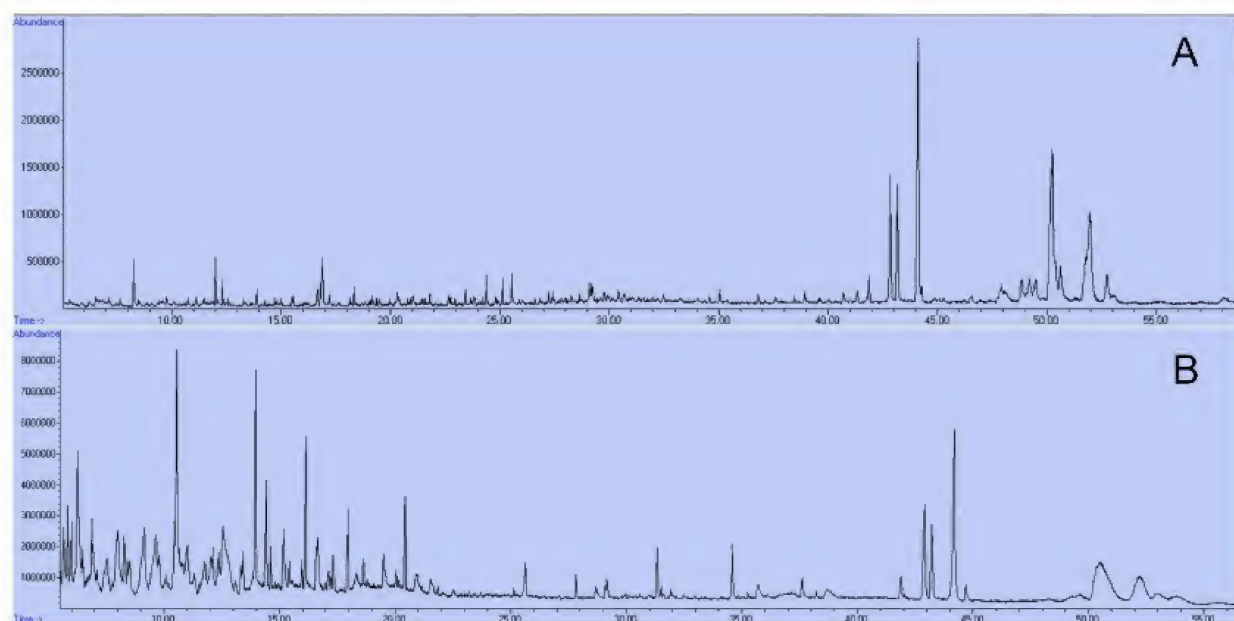


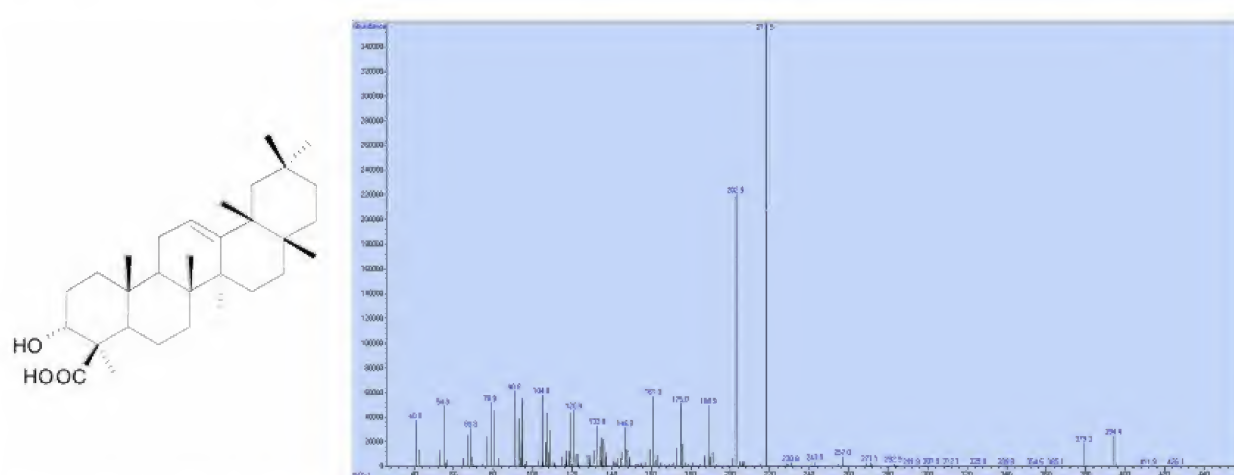
Figure 3 | Chromatogram from the direct desorption of the white matter sample (A) and dark matter sample (B) from the heart's fragment of King Richard the Lionheart.

Renaissance literature about plants and vegetable substances used during the embalming process, but also with the period and localization of the preparation of the cadaver of King Richard I. Some pollen grains must undoubtedly be considered as originating from embalming products (myrtle, daisy, mint), whose pollination occurs long before/after Spring; they also may have been stored before their use during the embalming process (that occurred short after the 6th of April 1199)^{7–10}. It is noteworthy that their state of preservation is better than the other recorded pollen grains (Table 1): pine, Holm oak, plantain. That may indicate some transport by air and the resulting oxidation. They are hence considered as contaminated external material, excluding their use during the embalming process, as pine resin is also a substance attested in embalming, for example in the treatise *La practica in arte chirurgica copiosa* by Giovanni da Vigo (1450–1525)¹⁹. Two other pollen grains, even if we consider them as external contaminations, are well preserved: poplar (characterised by

a fragile pollen) and bellflower. Poplar and bellflower were blooming at the time of the death and embalming of the King. Accordingly, we interpret their presence in a so good preservation state in relation with the short time-interval between their pollination and contamination of the heart contain, and probably their nearby distribution (i.e. short transport and weak risk of oxidation).

Molecular analyses showed the presence of frankincense (corresponding to the white matter) and wood tar product, creosote type (corresponding to the dark one)¹⁵. Frankincense was a non-negligible part of all embalming process during medieval times¹⁴, as this symbolic substance appeared at both extremities of the Christ life: presented by the Biblical Magi at His birth, and used during His external embalming after the Passion.

The goal of using such materials was to allow long-term conservation of the tissues, and good-smelling close to the one of Christ (comparable to the odour of sanctity)²⁰. Comparable examples from





later periods (13th to 19th c.) have been described, particularly in Italy: Cangrande della Scala (1291–1329)^{21,22}, members of the Medici family in Florence²³, the Aragonese mummies in San Domenico Maggiore, Naples^{24,25}, the Blessed Christine of Spoleto (1432–1458)²⁶, Salimbene Capacci (1433–1497) and his wife Margherita Sozzini (died in 1511)¹⁹, late Medieval and Renaissance Saints²⁷, etc. Comparable substances and plants known as filling materials of these mummies have been described (mint, rose powder, myrtle, etc.), but the case of Richard I may represent the oldest physical example of their use during an embalming process. Daisy and incense (oliban) have not yet been described in other cases of mummified corpse or anatomical fragment.

In addition, it is important to mention that even if the heart was completely pulverized at the time of our examination (and of its discovery in the 19th c.), it does not mean that the embalming was not successful, just that the equilibrium was lost between the mummified organ and its direct environment due to the alteration of the metal box and water infiltrations from the ground.

The use of such conservation products above-mentioned, reveals the influence of cooking and pharmacy for the embalming of viscera, and particularly the heart. Indeed, the first embalmers (12th c. AD) were cooks, i.e. those who were used to open the meat and cut the offal, but also had access to herbs, spices and other odoriferous substances²⁸. Then it was the turn of apothecaries and afterwards, chemists²⁹, using plants, sometimes exotic and disinfectant solutions proved to be efficient for the medium and long-term conservation of human cadavers after their opening by surgeons and barbers³.

This embalming process in the case of King Richard was, first of all, necessary for practical reasons: the organs were treated because the King's body had to reach the definitive burial (Rouen) which was far from the death place (Châlons): almost 530 kilometres. Other reasons, political this time, could have motivated this partition of the body, such as the appropriation of a territory using physical parts of the King^{30–33}. In the case of the controversial life of Richard I, it is equally possible that the *post-mortem* treatment of the organs (and particularly the heart), inspired by biblical spices, was necessary in order to accelerate his religious apotheosis. Indeed, as stated by a 13th century bishop of Rochester^{34,35}, Richard the Lionheart spent 33 years in Purgatory as expiation for his sins, and ascended to Heaven only in March 1232.

With embalming, symbolically, the deceased is identified as the Christ whose body was scented with spices by Joseph of Arimathea before being placed in his tomb. This study conducted on the mummified heart of Richard the Lionheart (died 1199) made it possible to ascertain that the organ has been filled or covered with a mix of vegetal and mineral material. Since the studied organ was entirely turned into powder, we ignore if an opening of the heart occurred prior to any embalming, and the exact aspect of the embalming material (liquid and/or salts).

This embalming method is of great importance, as we do not have any procedure or surgical treatise known for this period (end of the 12th c. AD.) describing the methodology and/or composition of the embalming material.

Methods

We sampled this highly fragmented mummified heart in 2012 (a total of 2 grams from an amount of almost 80 grams, now conserved in a crystal box: Fig. 1b).

A preliminary macroscopic examination completed with binocular lenses (magnification $\times 20$ and $\times 40$) was carried out. Further analyses were then performed.

An optical microscope analysis of six samples from the white and black powder was carried out as follows: after a short rehydration and decalcification of 30 minutes in a solution of 10% NaCl diluted in pure water plus 100 μ L of 100% acetic acid, 200 μ L from the supernatant were sampled. This liquid was then centrifuged (1000 turns per minute for 10 minutes) in order to obtain one spot per slide (Superfrost®). A total of four slides were obtained, two coloured by the technique of Hematein-Eosin-Saffran (HES), two for further cyto-immuno-chemistry analysis (respectively Biogenex® antibodies anti-myosin (human) MG1 and anti-myoglobine (human) MY32): antigen retrieval was performed according to the laboratory recommendations for primary antibodies, then slides were washed in de-ionised water, neutralized of

endogenous peroxidase using peroxidase block for 5 minutes, washed in TBS for 2 \times 5 minutes, incubated with protein block for 5 minutes, washed in TBS for 2 \times 5 minutes, incubated with optimally diluted primary antibodies according to the laboratory recommendations, washed in TBS for 2 \times 5 minutes, incubated with post-primary block for 30 minutes, washed in TBS for 2 \times 5 minutes, incubated with NovoLink® polymer for 30 minutes, washed in TBS for 2 \times 5 minutes with gentle rocking, developed peroxidase activity with DAB working solution for 5 minutes, washed in water, counterstained with hematein, washed in water for 5 minutes, dehydrated, cleared and mounted.

A palynological analysis was performed on only one available sample made of 0.5 gram of the white powder prepared as follows: attack by KOH 5% without heating in order to destruct vegetal tissues without affecting pollen grains. After centrifugation and rinsing, the final dried residue has been diluted within glycerol providing a total volume of 100 μ L, being separated into two parts of 50 μ L each put between slides and cover glasses. The two slides have been completely examined at optical microscope ($\times 250$) and provided a total of 14 pollen grains only (Table 1). Each pollen grain has been observed at magnification $\times 1000$ for the detailed examination of its morphology and its identification. Identification of pollen grains mainly refers to the personal bank of modern pollen grains (pollen slides and photographs) of one of us (S.M.P.) and to the Reille's Atlases^{36–39}. Information on plant systematic, distribution and flowering refers to the Coste's Flora⁴⁰.

A scanning electron microscope analysis was performed on two samples from the white powder, for both of them, morphology observations and chemical analyses were made (Zeiss® Supra 55 vp with an energy-dispersive X-ray spectrometer Bruker® SDD detector). The field-effect "gun" microscope (FE-SEM) operates at 0.5–30 kV. High-resolution observations were obtained by 2 secondary electron detectors: an in-lens SE detector, and an Everhart-Thornley SE detector. To maintain the integrity of the samples, measurements were taken without the usual deposits of carbon or gold at the surface of the sample.

An elemental analysis was performed on a small sample from the white powder (0.75 mg). Techniques used were: Inductively Coupled Plasma Mass Spectrometry (ICP-MS) (Elan DRCe quadrupole spectrometer, Perkin Elmer®, Les Ulis, France) and Inductively Coupled Plasma Atomic Emission Spectrometry (ICP-OES) (JY 24, Horiba Jobin Yvon®, Longjumeau, France). For both techniques, samples were first mineralized with hot concentrated nitric acid (Nitric acid 65% Suprapur®, VWR, Fontenay-sous-Bois, France) and completed with ultra pure water (MilliQ®, Millipore, Molsheim, France) to obtain a final volume of 0.5 mL. In order to detect elements of interest, a fast semi-quantitative analysis of all elements of the periodic table with the ICP-MS TotalQuant method was first effectuated. Nine elements were thereafter quantitatively measured: Pb, Sn, Sb, Cu, Bi, Hg by ICP-MS and Fe, Ca and Al by ICP-OES.

A molecular analysis was carried out on two samples from the white powder. SPME (Solid Phase MicroExtraction) has been used to trap organic volatile compounds from the samples and gas chromatography/mass spectrometry (GC/MS) analysis has been carried out in order to identify them. Samples have also been directly placed in a glass liner into the injector of the chromatograph and organic components have been directly desorbed at 300°C during five minutes (detail of equipment: GC/MS Agilent 6890 fitted with the Mass spectrometer 5973 mounted with an adapted purge and trap technique; Gerstel® CombiPal with the CISA injector).

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Author contributions

P.C. headed the whole study, performed the microscopic analyses, and wrote the main manuscript, with significant input from I.H.C., A.M.L., C.H. and G.L.D.L.G. and the other co-authors, based on their direct results. J.P. carried out the elemental analyses. G.F.J. and D.F. carried out the head-space studies. S.M.P. performed the pollen grain analyses. R.W. carried out the MEB examination. C.M. carried out the textile analysis. C.D.P. carried out the subsequent historical documentation. All authors reviewed the manuscript.

Additional information

Competing financial interests: The authors declare no competing financial interests.

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Not long ago there lived a girl who was an absolute fan of Hello Kitty. Had the most amazing collection of merchandising and sympathetic kitten room looked more like a museum than a quarter of a girl her age. He was a shy and very reserved girl, and her strange hobby put the spotlight on a group of unwanted girls who had in their school.

This was a group of juvenile delinquents sporting beating, robbing and humiliating the other girls, but in his case was continued harassment and everyday. They knew she would never say anything or parents or teachers, and they were smart enough to beat in places that would not be branded or officers to cover with clothes. As she was continued harassment, who ended as the beginning getting used to bother walked away thinking pain his beloved Hello Kitty. In his fantasies he ran an idyllic world where nothing could hurt her, and so she learned to ignore the pain and humiliation.

Abusive saw the cries and moans became an expressionless face. And what bothered them most was that his eyes looked like dead, empty and indifferent to the beatings he received.

The leader of the group began to realize that his behavior made him lose respect for others, who looked like he was unable to bend it. She did not resist, did not fight, did not cry, it was as if simply ignored. But what was even worse ...

She was afraid !.

I did not know why, but those expressionless eyes that watched when I was hitting, simply bloodcurdling. One day he decided to end the problem and organized his band to follow the girl to his home. Taking advantage of his parents came home late from work, sought to inflict as much pain to tremble every time you come out to her. I knew that I could not do at school or on the street because you always have someone who could betray.

The girl to get home the first thing he did was put on one of his favorite Hello Kitty pajamas, like any normal day. They had not even been two minutes when the doorbell rang. Without thinking she opened the door, and before I could react, two girls from the band already had immobilized her arms. A moment later came the leader with a mocking laugh.

'Do not you have been taught to ask before opening the door? - Without saying another word he hit as hard in the stomach, leaving no air and bent knees in the hallway of his house.

The criminals entered his house and shut the door making sure nobody had seen. They dragged the rose to her room and began to mock his collection while tore his figures one by one, sheets or other items with the logo of Hello Kitty.

But the girl had already escaped mentally. His eyes once again had become expressionless and seemed oblivious to any pain or humiliation. They tested apagándole cigarettes in the leg, with cuts on his skin, jumping on it ... but it all seemed useless. Those eyes, as lost,

began to terrorize the entire group and some of them began to say it was better to leave, someone could reach or any other excuse to hide the reality, is dying of fear !.

The leader could not leave it at that and decided to finish once and for all with the problem.

You know what did he say Hello Kitty? - He said as he put a hand in his pocket.

But the girl did not answer and continued immersed in his fantasy world.

- You can not say anything - said the head of the group - because no mouth !!! - And suddenly he pulled open pocket knife, with which he began pulling the girl's lips. Leaving his pajamas, his sheets and his whole Hello Kitty room stained with blood.

But against all odds, the girl did not flinch and continued to stare with those dead eyes. The leader of the band began to stab her frightened chest, he plunged the knife countless times until he died spitting blood and punctured lungs fully.

The other members of the band ran, thought to frighten go in any case they had gone to murder. But they were equally complicit and they knew that all of them could be tried. To hide evidence that might have let the leader set fire to the room and within minutes, the house was all that was on fire.

But over them to run or hide could never escape what they had done, and unknowingly had awakened a thirst for revenge that the girl could not be cashed in life, but would in the death and from the afterlife as a ghost .

All of them began to have horrible nightmares they could see the girl's blank eyes staring at them killed. But that was just the beginning, the stronger was the ghost, he could exercise more power over them, and one day the real suffering began.

Somehow the killer began to feel that whenever they cost more open your mouth, until one day he woke up with his mouth as if sealed: they could not speak, could not eat or drink, and although attempting to force the jaws They were not able to unstuck.

The leader was the first to feel the effect and the first to notice the look in the mirror that his mouth seemed to fade, as if he were clearing, and finally disappear. They seemed a picture of Hello Kitty, in which there is no mouth on the face of the kitten. Of course no one else but them could see that his face had no mouth. It was as if the ghost torturing play with your mind.

In a couple of days abusers began to feel bad, could not drink and began to feel the symptoms of dehydration, had terrible headaches and in his delirium saw the expressionless eyes of the girl intently watching them anywhere. They could feel the beat but could not scream, and what was even more disturbing, a kind of evil force prevented them from seeking help. Gradually they were succumbing, surrendering to pain and her eyes were losing luster,

losing life and becoming so expressionless as the girl who was humiliated, beaten and finally killed.

When paying your mind would leave his body and went into an irreversible coma. He evaded his mind and came to an idyllic place full of flowers and small dolls hello kitty playing and having fun jumping. It was the imaginary world in which the murdered girl evaded pain.

The bandleader was the last to bow down and fall into a deep coma. A few seconds to reach that heavenly place, the sky darkened and the tens of Hello Kittys distracted playing turned to her staring at her, with the same lifeless eyes than the girl.

He had begun his real suffering, because in this world there was no way to escape the pain and the tortured girl would ensure that no cease the pain until someone disconnected the machines that kept alive in the real world, in a deep coma which they never awaken.

NOTE: This story (fully rewritten and readapted) to science can not say whether it is an urban legend or a creepypasta.

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It OCCURS Often much more than we can suppose, by STI abandoned sailors and passengers, boats are adrift, wandering aimlessly in the ocean. Whether piracy, Deaths, errors or the sudden disappearance of Its crew; the fact is That in the vast ocean That populate This Planet, dozens of ships, Regardless of age, the dilute aimlessly surfing trip in a persistent EXTENSIVE lengths of the 7 seas meet.

These mysterious craft, guided by ocean currents and rough seas, or God knows what, are objects of curiosity in the history of mankind. Numerous writings and testimonies Have Been Reported based on leaving them without masking, as one of the greatest mysteries That mankind has ever known.

Is it really likely That a ship can sail alone for centuries?

Here, Most Famous cases:

The Mary Celeste



Mary Celeste was a distinguished ship Appeared December 4, 1872, Between the Azores and Portugal. Spent several years drifting HAD lost contact and location.

When They managed to get inside Their facilities, it was discovered the crew HAD That Disappeared without a trace, no remains, no clues, no marks That Would Have Been Attacked or robbed. Even the boat was full of Provisions, and even charge of STI 1,701 barrels of

Alcohol Industrial Were intact at the winery.

The book marked a captain last message logs dated November 24, 1870. Benjamin Briggs did not speak of anything abnormal. Just routine. But all the tracks Indicated That people HAD gone to "great hurry". Pipes and snuff HAD Been abandoned Suddenly no lifeboats Could not Explain a possible escape by either by the crew ... just, there was no explanation.

The Russian ship Lyubov Orlova



This is The most recent case. The cruise Luybov Orlava is About to reach British shores. His Presence is raising an alarm at a global giant Boat That Takes years adrift, and guarding inside a royal army of rats. Surviving rats fed each other. Simply terrible. It is Feared They May Have escampar dangerous viruses, if one of Those, Some of These animals managed to

reach land.

The Lyubov Orlova, was built in 1976 and named after a Russian actress and singer. For over 30 years it has-been used as a boat expedition to the Antarctic and Arctic waters, until, in 2006 was stranded in Antarctica. DESPITE Being towed, in 2010 it was abandoned by STI owners in Newfoundland.

Later it was sold for scrapping, but That was towing the boat, it ended up losing and no one bothered to recover, becoming a threat to other ships. Have Atlantic ocean currents led since, from here to there over the years, until, a few weeks ago, I've Already seen approaching the coast of Scotland.

Satellites and passed him unavailable witnesses aboard other boats travel Have Seen ITS bridges Hundreds of nerve rats to survive, have practiced cannibalism.

The "Octavio".



In 1762, This ship turned from east to England When the captain DECIDED to "cut corners" through the Northwest Passage, Which was a bad idea never Knowing no one Could Survive This way. The case of Octavio was no exception, the ship Became trapped in ice and pure Could never escape.

However, in 1775, a whaler called Herald, I met Octavius floating aimlessly off the coast of Greenland.

The crew of the whale Entered the Octavius, Where They found the bodies of the crew and frozen by the cold of the arctic passengers. The crew Also found the ship's captain, WHO

was still sitting at His desk, and next to the log Whose last record year was 1762, Which Means That HAD Been Octavio floating for 13 years.

The Flying Dutchman



This is Perhaps the Most Famous Case That You Were Able to meet. Based on the reality of the Flying Dutchman, too (rather disturbing) urban legends That Have Remained in the memory of humanity Were developed. Even Wagner Gave her an opera crowd and film Have versions That made it a historical framework Which is complicated glimpse of reality. However, facing so much fantasy, there is a reality in some places That outstrips fiction. The truth is That, Between lies and truth, the legend of the Flying Dutchman, is a complete mystery for man, for

Already 400 years.

"Dutch" That was a ship in 1680 made the journey to the East Indies, and it was led by Captain Hendrik van der Decken. All was well while sailing the tropical Through you, but on reaching the Cape of Good Hope, a violent storm destroyed the helm.

They lost control Being adrift for weeks and weeks. Legend has it That Captain Van der fiecken was furious seeing That I Could not do anything to save His ship and crew, so I started throwing curses. Filled with rage, I yelled at night storm the following words:

"I challenge the power of God to stop the course of my destiny and my career resolved. Or the devil will wake my fear. If I have to sail the seas Until the day of judgment."

God soon revenge, ordering That Van der Decken and his boat errasen the seas forever "until the trumpet of God rasgasen heaven."

THROUGHOUT history, it has even now, a rumor That if you Find this boat, luck is completely pitch and only if you are not caught by whatever sailing in it, you can get rid of a chillingly ruthless death. However, They say Numerous crews Have found the Flying Dutchman wandering the seas, seeing in him a terrifying presence. And baptizing, this story, like the biggest mystery navigation, ever told.

Experts Say That in reality, there are Hundreds of boats sailing aimlessly without any captain at its helm. Who you know, maybe all of them ever Have Encountered the dreaded "Dutch Herrante".



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Saturday, August 29, 2015

The Guttenberg Murder.



*Mena Muller Martin Kenkowski Gustavus
A. Seide Medical Examiner's Testimony
Execution of Martin Kenkowski*

On May 3, 1881, Mena Muller and Louis Kettler took the ferry from New York City to Hoboken, New Jersey. They were going to be married in Hoboken, although they each had a spouse already. The legality of the marriage did not concern them; they were returning to Germany and would start a new life there. But somehow their plans went awry; that night Louis Kettler returned to New York alone and ten days later Mena Muller's body was found in New Jersey with a fractured skull.

Date: May 3, 1881

Location: Guttenberg, New Jersey

Victim: Philomena Muller

Cause of Death: Blows to the head

Accused: Martin Kenkowski (Louis Kettler)

Synopsis:

On May 13, 1881, a man gathering leaves in the woods outside of Guttenberg, New Jersey, nearly stepped on the body of young woman lying dead on the ground. He hurried away to inform the police. That afternoon the coroner of Hoboken visited the spot and made an examination of the body. She had been an attractive woman with small and symmetrical features; he judged her to be around twenty-five years old. Along the top of her head, on the left side, was a deep gash and beneath it the skull was fractured. There was another gash over the right eye. Both wounds had apparently been made with the edge of a heavy stone. Her nose was broken and her left ear had been injured as if an earring had been torn from it.

She remained unidentified for five days, then a New York City tobacconist named Simon Muller came to see if it was his missing wife, Mena (short for Philomena). He was accompanied by his wife's sister Maria Schmidt. In spite of the condition of her face, both positively identified her as Mena Muller, and recognized her clothing and jewelry as well.



Mena and her husband had been separated for some time, and two weeks earlier she had told her sister that she had found a decent man from Alsace, who was going to marry her and take her to Europe aboard the steamer *L'Amerique*, to set sail on May 4. Miss Schmidt told this to Simon Muller who went to the docks on May 4 and watched the gangplank as the passengers boarded the ship. His wife was not among them.

This story confirmed some information that the police already had. Mrs. Frinck, the wife of an alehouse keeper in New York, was suspicious of a couple in the saloon on May 3. The woman seemed to have plenty of money and she talked incessantly. Before she left she borrowed a corkscrew to open a bottle of Rhine wine that she had purchased in Hoboken. The description Mrs. Frinck gave of the woman tallied exactly with the description of the murdered woman so police detectives set out to trace the couple's movements.

They found that the wine had been purchased at an inn run by Edward Stabel. The woman who bought it had told him that she and her husband had just been married by the Reverend Dr. Mabon, at the Grove Reformed Dutch Church and she wanted to celebrate the event and treat the minister. The man had waited outside and Stabel did not get a good look at him, but his description of the woman matched that given by Mrs. Frinck.

The detectives spoke with Dr. Mabon, who remembered performing the ceremony. They

identified themselves as Louis Kettler and Mena Schmidt, and gave an address on Third Street in New York, but Mabon could not recall anything specific about the couple. His servant, however, remembered that the man had a full face and a dark mustache. Before the service he paced back and forth in the garden as if his mind was troubled.

The detectives went next to the Third Street address. No one there knew Mena Schmidt, but they found an expressman who had moved four trunks for a Mena Muller, from Third Street to Scherrer's Hotel on Christopher Street. There they were told that Mr. and Mrs. Kettler had checked in on May 2. They went out the morning of May 3, but late that night Mr. Kettler had returned alone. He said his wife had stayed at her sister's house and they were to meet on the steamship the next day. The next day he had his trunks delivered to the steamship wharf and checked out.



With Louis Kettler aboard a ship heading to Europe, New Jersey Attorney General Stockton sent a message to authorities at Havre, describing Kettler and requesting his arrest on the charge of murder. Two Hoboken detectives were preparing to set sail for Europe.

But a Jersey City reporter named Gustavus Seide, did not believe that Kettler had left on *L'Amerique*. There was no certainty that the baggage had actually been delivered to the wharf, and there was no positive evidence that Louis Kettler had actually boarded the ship. With some difficulty Seide located C. A. Strang, the expressman who picked up the baggage at Scherrer's Hotel. Strang told him that he had not delivered the trunks to the wharf, but to an address on Charles Street. Then about ten days later he moved three of them to an address on Thirty-sixth Street. At the Charles Street address, Seide was told that Kettler had left for California, leaving behind a trunk full of crockery and cookware. Seide and Strang took the trunk to Thirty-sixth Street, where no one knew Louis Kettler, but a man fitting his description, named Martin Kinkowski lived there with his wife and two children. Kinkowski was not home, but his wife recognized the trunk and paid Strang fifty cents to carry it into the house.



As Gustavus Siede and C.A. Strang stood outside watching the house and waiting for Kinkowski's return, they were arrested by a Hoboken policeman. Following their own line of inquiry, the police had come to Thirty-sixth Street looking for the same man. They had mistaken Siede for Kinkowski. The matter was straightened out at the police station and the officers were sent back to Thirty-sixth Street. That night, Martin Kinkowski, alias Louis Kettler, was arrested for the murder of Philomena Muller.

Keeping the prisoner alive was the chief concern that night. News that they had captured the Guttenberg killer traveled fast and a crowd over 400 people stood on Thirty-sixth street, calling to lynch Kinkowski. They got him safely to the Hoboken ferry, but another crowd seeking vengeance was waiting on the Jersey side. When Kinkowski was safely in his jail cell he had to be kept under surveillance—he was so despondent that the jailers feared suicide.

Kinkowski denied any connection to Mena Muller's murder. He admitted that he knew her and said that they had been together at Scheutzen Park in New Jersey on May 3. They stopped in a saloon for some beer and when they came out they saw two men walking down the road. One of them said "Hello, Mena! What are you doing over here?" When Kinkowski heard this he turned to Mena and said, "If you are that kind of a woman, I'll have nothing to do with you." He left her with the two men and never saw her again.

Trial: October 5, 1881

The trial of Martin Kinkowski for the murder of Philomena Muller was held in the Hudson County Court of Oyer and Terminer, prosecuted by Attorney General Stockton. The evidence against Kinkowski was entirely circumstantial but it was compelling. The prosecution presented a parade of witnesses who testified to seeing Martin Kinkowski and Mena Muller together at various times on May 3, and to the movement of his trunks after the murder. At one point the courtroom was shocked when a medical examiner produced Mena Muller's skull to illustrate the wounds she received, but there was no physical evidence to link Kinkowski to the wounds.



Kinkowski's defense was little more than his testimony contradicting or explaining away the testimony against him. He held to the story of the two men who she left with that day and wanted to take the court to the spot where it happened. This was disallowed by the judge. Kinkowski said he had not taken the trunks to Charles Street to conceal them, but to hold them for Mena's return.

Throughout the trial Kinkowski was emotionally charged. In his closing argument, when the Attorney General declared Kinkowski to be the murderer, he jumped to his feet shouting that God knows he is innocent and will protect him.

He was not protected from the jury, who after an hour of deliberation found Kinkowski guilty. When the verdict was read Kinkowski fainted.

Verdict: Guilty of first degree murder

Aftermath:

In the days following his trial Martin Kinkowski suffered from nervous prostration. His attorney appealed on technicalities and moved for a new trial but his motion was denied. At his sentencing Kinkowski was asked if he had anything to say before the death sentence was pronounced. Kinkowski made a statement in German that was translated by an interpreter:

"Since this courthouse has been built, a more innocent man than myself never stood before this Court, and God knows it."

Martin Kinkowski was hanged inside the Hudson County Jail in Jersey City on January 6, 1882. He made no confession; professing his innocence to the end.



Sources:

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Wedded and murdered within an hour! Philadelphia: Barclay & Co., 1881.

Newspapers:

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"Kinkowski Sentenced to Death." *New York Herald* 6 Nov 1881.

"Kinkowski's Confession." *New York Herald* 15 Dec 1881.

"Kinkowski's Defence." *New York Herald* 15 Oct 1881.

"Kinkowski's Defense Begging to be Allowed to Visit the Place Where He Last Saw Mina Muller." *Cincinnati Commercial Tribune* 19 Oct 1881.

"Kinkowski's Farewell." *New York Herald* 2 Jan 1882.

"Kinkowski's Fate." *New York Herald* 4 Dec 1881.

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"Mena Muller's Murder." *New York Herald* 6 Oct 1881.

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"Paying The Death Penalty." *New York Tribune* 7 Jan 1882.

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Saturday, September 5, 2015

The Hamilton Murder.

Little Murders



The Hamilton Murder. A Most Mysterious Tragedy. Special Dispatch to the Cincinnati Gazette. Hamilton, O. December 26.

The murder of Thomas Meyers, in George Johnson's saloon, in this city last Saturday night, is almost the only topic of conversation here now. The circumstances of the tragedy are so very peculiar that no one knows exactly what to make of it. The murder occurred in a room over the saloon used as a faro bank, but in which were also several card tables, employed at times by those who wished to enjoy a quiet game of cards for amusement.

In this room, where the affair occurred, were gathered several of our prominent citizens among whom were Co. A. C. Sands, Job E. Owens, Dr. Huber, Peter Schwab, David E. Brown, John McKinney, E. Bannister, J. C. Lindley, Samuel Davidson, Solomon Schurz. Colonel Sands says, however, that he had left the room before the shooting occurred, although he was there but a short time before. Of all those who were present, no one but Peter Schwab can give an intelligent account of what happened, and his statement is singularly deficient in some important particulars.

He says that he and Dr. Huber were playing casino at one of the tables. Colonel Sands and three others were playing seven-up at another, while Meyers and a number of others were engaged at the faro bank, George Johnson, the proprietor, dealing the same.

Of a sudden he heard the cry, "Oh, murder," and looking up saw Meyers fall against the wall and sink toward the floor. As he slipped from his seat he discharged a revolver, the bullet lodging in the wall over the faro table. As he reached the floor he fired again, the ball being imbedded in the wash board just above the floor. At the cry of "murder" the room was cleared in a jiffy, only Schwab and Bannister remaining. Seeing that Meyers was badly hurt, Schwab ran out upon the street, captured Dr. Huber and brought him back, who examined Meyers' condition. He found that Meyers had received a pistol shot in the abdomen which had severed an important artery, and death ensued in a few minute. In addition to this wound he had received three blows upon the head, evidently made by a slung-shot, either of which would have proved fatal.

Now, what is particularly curious about the affair is that no one saw the man enter and deliver the blows upon Meyers' head and no one heard the report of the pistol when he was shot. The first circumstance which attracted attention was the cry or "Oh, murder." Of course, under

these circumstances, it is very difficult to fix upon any one as the perpetrator of the deed. Suspicion rests, however upon Tom McGehen, a man who has had a deadly quarrel with Meyers for some time past. A boy stated that, shortly before the occurrence, he saw Tom McGehen, his nephew, James McGehen, Jack Gavin, Daniel McGlynn and Ich Sheely pass through the saloon below, and go to the card room. Upon this statement a warrant was sworn out or the arrest of these parties. This morning, however before the warrant was served, they learned that it had been issued, and voluntarily surrendered themselves to esquire Wilkins. Upon representations made by the defenders that the presence of witnesses from abroad was necessary to their defense, they were placed in charge of a constable and sent to the Hamilton House to be kept until Wednesday morning when the preliminary examination will take place.

"The Hamilton Murder." *Cincinnati Daily Gazette* 27 Dec 1870.

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London, W. H. J. Carter, Printers, Pall Mall.

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FIRE.

THE HORRORS OF CRINOLINE & THE DESTRUCTION OF HUMAN LIFE.



THE HAUNTED LADY, OR "THE GHOST" IN THE LOOKING-GLASS.

MADAME LA MODISTE. "WE WOULD NOT HAVE DISAPPOINTED YOUR LADYSHIP, AT ANY SACRIFICE, AND THE ROBE IS FINISHED *À MERVILLE*."



THE TRAILING SKIRT; — DEATH LOVES A SHINING MARK.



THE ARSENIC WALTZ.

THE NEW DANCE OF DEATH. (DEDICATED TO THE GREEN WREATH AND DRESS-MONGERS.)



The Dangers of Dress Past and Present
Alison Matthews David

Fashion Victims

LIVING MADE EASY.



REVOLVING HAT.

Which by a slight touch presents its Wearer with, Eye-Glass, Cigar, Scent-Box, Spectacles, Hearing-Trumpet, &c. &c. without the irksome trouble of holding them. —

London: Pub^d by T. M'Lean, 26, Regent-street Jan. 27. 1830.





Fashions for July, 1840.

If you cannot get NONFLAM, the only flame proof Flannelette (Dr. Perkin's NONFLAM) do not accept a substitute, but write Patentees, WHIPP BROS., & TOD, Ltd., 10, Aytoun St., Manchester.



Why is she not afraid of being burnt?
Because she wears NONFLAM, the fire-
resisting cosy, aseptic material, so strong'y
recommended by Coroners.



The History of Hazardous Clothing, in Pictures

by Anika Burgess / 17 Nov 2015



The Arsenic Waltz or The New Dance of Death (Dedicated to the Green Wreath and Dress-Mongers), relating to the use of arsenic as a green pigment, from an 1862 issue of *Punch*. (Photo: Wellcome Library, London/Courtesy Bloomsbury) *The Arsenic Waltz or The New Dance of Death (Dedicated to the Green Wreath and Dress-Mongers)*, relating to the use of arsenic as a green pigment, from an 1862 issue of *Punch*. (Photo: Wellcome Library, London/Courtesy Bloomsbury) A cartoon depicting the diseases a trailing skirt can collect, as death hovers close-by: 'Typhoid Fever! Consumption!'

(Photo: The Art Archive at Art Resource, NY) Half skeletal, half fashionable memento mori, c.1805. (Photo: Wellcome Images, London/Courtesy Bloomsbury) *The Haunted Lady, or 'The Ghost' in the Looking-Glass*, from an 1863 issue of *Punch*. A fashionable woman standing next to her dressmaker looks in the mirror and sees the figure of the exhausted seamstress who died to make her clothing. (Photo: Toronto Public Library/Courtesy Bloomsbury) 'Fire': *The Horrors of Crinoline and the Destruction of Human Life*, c. 1860. Hoop skirts made from crinoline were popular but also a hazard, with media reports of them frequently being set alight. (Photo: Wellcome Library, London/Courtesy Bloomsbury) Henry Tetlow's 'Harmless' Swan Down Powder containing lead, ca. 1875-1880.

(Photo: Emilia Dallman Howley/Courtesy Bloomsbury) Advertising postcard for Perkins Non-Flam Flannelette, 'so strongly recommended by Coroners,' c. 1910. (Photo: Courtesy Bloomsbury) Advertising postcard for Perkins Non-Flam Flannelette, 'so strongly recommended by Coroners,' c. 1910. (Photo: Courtesy Bloomsbury)

Arsenical Green Fashion Plate, 1840. The green dress is likely to have been colored using a pigment derived from arsenic. (Photo: Courtesy Bloomsbury) Chromolithograph showing the effect of arsenic used in artificial flowermaking on workers' hands, 1859. (Photo: Wellcome Library, London/Courtesy Bloomsbury) *Revolving Hat*,

Green ball gowns tinted with arsenic. Top hats made of mercury. Flammable crinoline. These are just some of the lethal fashions covered in the new book *Fashion Victims: The Dangers of Dress Past and Present*, which details the history of death by clothing.

Focusing on the mid-1700s to the 1930s, the book is an astonishing and sometimes gory account of the ways in which clothing has killed, either by accident, by design, or through treacherous manufacturing conditions.

This dark history is presented alongside a series of illustrations from the era, which show just how dangerous dressing could be. Below, a selection of images from this startling and fascinating book.



The Arsenic Waltz or The New Dance of Death (Dedicated to the Green Wreath and Dress-Mongers), relating to the use of arsenic as a green pigment, from an 1862 issue of *Punch*.

(Photo: Wellcome Library, London/Courtesy Bloomsbury) *The Arsenic Waltz or The New Dance of Death (Dedicated to the Green Wreath and Dress-*

1830. The use of mercury in hat-making persisted for over 200 years because it was not seen as a threat to the wearer, despite the damage it caused to the workers who produced the hats. (Photo: Wellcome Images, London/Courtesy Bloomsbury) The cover of *Fashion Victims: The Dangers of Dress Past and Present*. The cover of *Fashion Victims: The Dangers of Dress Past and Present*.

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Chromolithograph showing the effect of arsenic used in artificial flowermaking on workers' hands, 1859. (Photo: Wellcome Library, London/Courtesy Bloomsbury)

Revolving Hat, 1830. The use of mercury in hat-making persisted for over 200 years because it was not seen as a threat to the

wearer, despite the damage it caused to the workers who produced the hats. (Photo:

Wellcome Images,

London/Courtesy Bloomsbury)

The cover of *Fashion Victims:*

The Dangers of Dress Past and

Present. The cover of *Fashion*

Victims: The Dangers of Dress

Past and Present.



The Arsenic Waltz or The New Dance of Death

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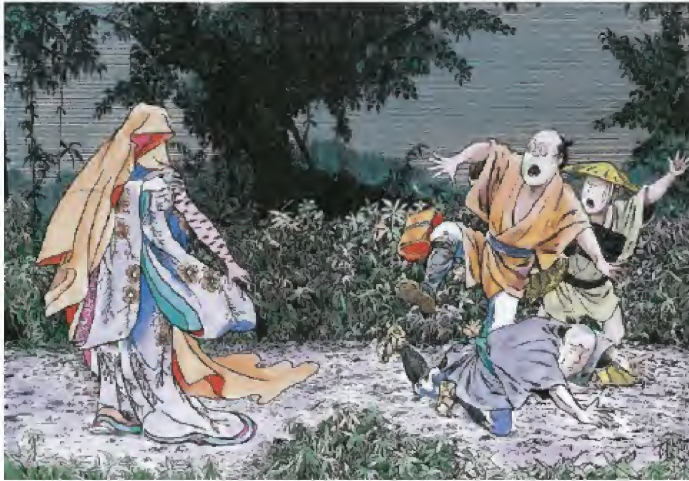


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19 Mar 2014

by Zack Davisson in Uncategorized



Shigeru_Mizuki_Todomeki

Translated from Konjaku Hyakki Shui, Mizuki Shigeru's Mujara, and Japanese Wikipedia

A young girl covered entirely in a tattered robe creeps up to you on a darkly lit street. A poor beggar girl, she thrusts out a hand for alms, hoping that you will take sympathy on her plight. But just as you go to reach for your wallet to drop a few coins in her hand, the lamplight flickers exactly so and you see a site that will terrify you for as long as you live. For on that outstretched arm glitter hundreds of

eyeballs, blinking in the reflected lamplight.

What Does Todomeki Mean?

A tricky question! Looking straight at the kanji, todomeki means “hundreds-of-eyes demon.” That is 百々 (todo; hundreds) + 目 (me; eye) + 鬼 (ki; demon). But if you listen to the word instead of reading the kanji, then you hear some of those homophones Japanese is famous for and you realize that the name “todomeki” is a pun—at least a pun understood by those in the Edo period.

There is another reading for todome, which is 鳥目, meaning “bird’s eye” (鳥 todo; bird) + (目 me; eye). This doesn’t refer to an actual bird’s eye, but more to its shape. In old Japan, coins had a round whole hole stamped through them so they could be strung together and carried on a string. Some modern Japanese coins still retain this feature, mainly 5 and 50 yen pieces. This round hole reminded people of the perfectly round shape of a bird’s eye, so “todome” became a slang term for money. Furthermore, when a person has a “bird’s eye,” it mean that they were night blind—they couldn’t see at all in the dark.

As you will see by the story, the yōkai todomeki plays off of both of these puns.

The Story of Todomeki

Todomeki appears only in Toriyama Sekien’s *Konjaku Gazu Zoku Hakki* (今昔画图続百鬼; The Illustrated One Hundred Demons from Past and Present). He tells her story thusly:

“The unofficial history of Hakkoseki tells of a young girl was born with unusually long arms. She took advantage of her natural attributes to become a thief, constantly stealing money.



Sekien Dodomeki

But the spirit of money took its own revenge, and marked her body with hundreds of bird's eyes, one for every coin she stole. She transformed into the todomeki, a hundreds-of-eyes demon. Tales of the todomeki are told in the unofficial histories of several places. She possibly originates from Toto."

That's it! That's the sum total of the legend of the todomeki!

Like Kyokotsu, Todomeki is one of Toriyama's "pun yōkai." Toriyama had several volumes of his popular "Illustrated One Hundred Demons" series to fill, and not nearly enough yōkai to fill them. He often invented his own yōkai, based off of half-heard legends or *mélanges* of Chinese folktales or just completely made up. And sometimes he just took odd turns of phrases and made

puns out of them.

It's the equivalent of creating a monster book filled with creatures like "Bird Brain" and "Slow Poke" with the creatures treated literally—in other words, like names of Pokémon characters.

This means that Todomeki has no true history or backstory. Toriyama just thought of a visual pun and then wrote a quick story to go with it.

But there is another story of a yōkai with a similar name. A much more interesting story ...

The Domeki – The Hundred-Eyed Oni

While Toriyama upped the ante by giving his todomeki "hundreds of eyes" instead of a standard-issue hundred, there are other yōkai in Japanese folklore known by the name domeki, or hundred-eye demon (or oni). These stories generally follow a set pattern of a monster doing battle with a warrior, and that monster then seeking refuge in a temple where it mends its ways and finds Buddhism. That peculiar little twist marks the stories as coming from around the Heian period, when stories of the supernatural were almost always accompanied by some tacked-on Buddhist moral that allowed them to slip by the official censors.

One of these legends comes from Tochigi prefecture. Many researchers believe that Toriyama had at least casually heard of this legend, and that accounts for the line "She possibly originates from Toto" in Toriyama's book.

This story comes from the middle Heian period, and is set in Hitachi province (modern day Ibaraki prefecture) and Shimosa province (modern day Chiba prefecture). Here, there was a feudal lord named Taira no Masakado who tried to set himself up as an independent emperor in what came to be known as the Masakado Rebellion. Needless to say, the current emperor and his imperial court weren't pleased with Masakado's behaviour, and dispatched the law enforcement officer Fujiwara no Hidesato to administer a death warrant.

Hidesato tracked Masakado across the provinces; crossing swords with him many times.

However, he was unable to succeed in his mission.

At a loss, Hidesato returned to his home in Shimosa province and pleaded with the kami spirits, holding a prayer for his victory. Hidesato was granted the use of a sacred sword from the shrine, and headed off hunting again. At last he took Masakado prisoner and brought him before the imperial court for justice. For this service Hidesato was then appointed Chinjufu-shogun (Defender of the North) and awarded the governorship of Shimotsuke Province.

Now elevated in status, Fujiwara no Hidesato built a great mansion at Utsunomiya, Tochigi. One day he was hunting along the Togen Kaido road when he passed a small village called Ouso. An old man hailed him and so Hidesato rode over to hear what his subject had to say.

The old man told Hidesato that to the northwest of the village, in a town called Umasuteba, near Uta, there is an oni with a hundred eyes ravaging the land. The people of that village lived in fear, and the old man begged Hidesato to rid them of the monster.

Accepting the challenge, Hidesato rode to Umasuteba (another pun of sorts; “umesuteba” translates into English as the “Horse Throwing-away Place”) where he hid and laid in wait for the oni. Around midnight, the clear sky became covered with clouds and a great monster appeared. Standing 10 shaku tall, its hair was sharp like knives and it had a hundred blazing eyes. The monster saw Hidesato’s horse and leapt on it instantly, killing it and feasting on its flesh. Hidesato took out his bow and took aim at the distracted monster, targeting the single eye that was shining the brightest. He let loose an arrow. The arrow pierced the oni’s eye and entered into his vital organs.

Such was the power of Hidesato’s arrow that the oni was knocked backwards and flipped in a somersault, raging in pain. The demon ran away all the way to Myojin mountain where he collapsed and died. He waited till the following day to view the oni’s body, but found nothing but scorched earth and ash. Hidesato figured that molten fire must have poured from the monster’s wounds burning the corpse and surrounding area.

But the story does not end ...

About 400 years passed. The Ashikaga clan took power and started the Muromachi shogunate. On the north side of Myojin mountain, in the village of Hanawada, a temple had been built called Hongan-ji. The chief abbot of that temple was the holy man Chitoku.

At that time, there was a young woman who lived at Hongan-ji. She was said to be truly virtuous and close to a living saint—she did everything right and lived the true path of Buddhism. She fooled almost everyone; except for Chitoku.

In truth, this virtuous woman was the domeki, that self-same hundred eyed oni who was thought to have died on that spot 400 years ago. The domeki hid its shape in disguise while recuperating from its wounds. And it drank blood—oceans of human blood—over those 400 years, biding its time until it was fully healed and could return to its malicious behavior.

Chitoku saw through the domeki’s illusion and revealed its true shape. Its plot uncovered, the

domeki attacked the abbot and they were locked in a fierce battle. The oni's flaming blood spurt everywhere, reducing the temple to ash. And while Chitoku engaged the oni, thrashing at it with his holy staff, he preached the truth of the Dharma. The domeki, finally hearing the words of Chitoku, dropped to its knees and begged that sutras be read for its soul. The domeki changed its ways and never caused trouble again.

The fame of this story spread, and the area became known for its carved hundred-eyed domeki masks and wooden toys. The path to Myojin mountain is still called the Domeki-dori (百目鬼通り).



Domeki_Dori

Picture from this blog

Translator's Note:

Another article for reader Dominique Lamssiesk. I expected to do a quick translation of todomeki as requested—easy because there is really so little to tell—and then I stumbled into the very cool tale of the Domeki.

That should probably get its own entry, but I couldn't find any pictures to go along with it, so it is getting lumped in with Todomeki. But it is still a cool story!

There is another hundred-eye yōkai, the Hyakume. That is an original creation of Shigeru Mizuki, and I might do an entry on it someday.

6 Comments

1. Jose Prado Mar 20, 2014 @ 21:27:23

Another fascinating post!

2. nzumel Mar 24, 2014 @ 14:57:41

The domeki story reminds me of the Jataka (stories, with morals, about the previous lives of the Buddha) about the Prince of Five Weapons, who vanquishes a demon in the forest, then converts him to righteousness. Totally different set of plot motifs, but it makes me wonder if the practice you mention of tacking Buddhist morals onto supernatural tales takes its inspiration somehow from the Jatakas.

My version of the story, here: <https://multoghost.wordpress.com/2014/01/12/hairy-grip-the-ogre-and-the-prince-of-five-weapons/>

• Zack Davisson Apr 06, 2014 @ 10:56:57

Interesting! I'm not sure where it comes from, but it was common especially around the Heian period. There are all sorts of great stories that have a sudden moral tagged on the end.

3. dominiquelamssies Mar 25, 2014 @ 14:31:47

Great post! Thanks again! The Domeki story was very cool. Though it seems like Japanese people were reticent to help people they met on the street. You're not supposed to give alms, or pick up abandoned babies, or tell a girl she's pretty...

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The Linguin. A Snake-odile?

The Linguin. A Snake-odile? Posted by metan on May 13, 2011 Posted in: Forteana , old newspapers . Tagged: Forteana , history . Leave a comment
When I find something unusual in the old newspapers I do a bit of research about it with the help of the interweb. Usually there are more interesting things to be found. Trying to research the Linguin was very annoying. There are any amount of linguini recipes floating about in the ether and the computer insisted on steering me in that direction. I wanted half-snake half-crocodile stories, not pasta recipes!!! Aaaarrgh! In the end, after much searching, the only monster-related Linguin I could find was in direct reference to this story from 1899 (if you find more, please let me know!). Does that mean it was such a rare and elusive creature it has only been seen once by outsiders?!!! What a discovery!!! (Apology for over-use of exclamation marks.) Hmmm. Could Lieutenant-Colonel Andrew Haggard been duped by his friend Baron Alfons Pereira? Surely not. Related Electroplated Cat. 1892. Yeah, I know, unlikely..... In "Critters" Human Sea Monster. In "Forteana" Hoop snake attack. 1884. In "Critters" Posts navigation ← Stolen trees-1828. Port Said Sea Monster-1934. →

wordpress.com

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The monster of the Loch. April 1st 1934

Posted by *metan* on *October 20, 2011*

Posted in: Critters, Fortean, old newspapers, photo, sea monsters. Tagged: 1934, April fools, history, Loch Ness, Nessie, news, photo, Scotland. Leave a comment

What a great picture of the usually elusive Loch Ness monster.

The caption reads; Declared to be the first complete authentic photograph of the Loch Ness monster to reach Australia. It is suggested that it was taken by a Scottish photographer on April the first and transmitted to Perth by wireless.

Who needs photoshop? I am actually really impressed by this article. Although the depiction of Nessie is a little different from the humps in the water one we are used to, this picture is a great one, and often early illustrated newspapers articles live by their captions as the picture is so blurry or dark. This one is detailed and so clear I am sure it would have amused many readers. I wonder how many of them were taken in despite the reference to April the first?



Western Mail 12 Apr 1934 <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article38023502>



Many would say that is a chilling picture, or the skeptics, at least, recognize that it is intriguing. He was the winner of a competition to select the "ghost photograph of" convincing the world. The image shows a human figure in vintage dress a window in a castle in Scotland in the UK, at a time when the site was supposed empty.

Taken in May 2008, the photo shows what looks like a person wearing a ruff, this motif was placed in the neck

several hundred years ago , and looking behind the bars of a window in the Castle Tantallon in LothianEast .

The funny thing is that in the castle no dummies are used and their guides do not wear costumes. Three Photographic Experts confirmed that the image was not manipulated.

Is this the rey or shade?



James V of Scotland

Christopher Aitchison , a visitor to the castle who took the photo, said: "I did not realize someone or something was present in the image until I got home and noticed the anomaly".

Aitchison said: "Some people have suggested that it could be the reflection of light on the stones."

But "someone even suggested that it might be of King James V of Scotland".

The contest received more than 250 images from several countries and their call was part of the 21th edition of the International Science Festival Edinburgh. The event's agenda includes a workshop on "The Science of Ghosts" which purported evidence of the existence of spirits will be analyzed.

Ghosts "in the brain"

The psychologist Richard Wiseman , who has studied the so-called supernatural phenomena and who made the competition notice did not rule out that maybe someone appears and is identified as "spectrum" of the winning photo.

Wiseman, who does not believe in ghosts, explains the importance of the human figure in our

psyche causes the brain is programmed to see faces even when they are not real.

Moreover, Dr. Caroline Watt , University of Edinburgh and co-organizer of the festival, says that despite the inexplicable some captured by the cameras images, photos "we received not provide convincing evidence"of the existence of the spirits.



"If there seem real ghosts who fear the cameras," he concludes.

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Saturday, July 11, 2015

Recent Homicides—The Murder Mania.

(From *New York Herald*, January 28, 1872)

Recent Homicides—The Murder Mania. The community is at present in the midst of a series of shocking murders which seem at undefined intervals to sweep over the face of our civilization, darkening it with a tinge of blood. Homicide appears for a while to be epidemic, and men talk gallows philosophy with a tinge of ferocity in sentiment which indicates all the more how the blood-spilling mania seizes mankind in some form or other, whether under the form of murder or killing for murder. Two days ago a wretch named Botts expiated the shooting of "Pet" Halsted, in Newark—moving cause jealousy. In California, Mrs. Fair, is under sentence for killing a man who was about to return to a long-neglected, much-injured wife; jealousy the cause here, too. Stokes killed Fisk—cause, jealousy indirectly; not Stokes' but Fisk's jealousy. Two days ago within the very hour that the murderer Botts was hurried out of the world, a girl of eighteen—a Mrs. Hyde—shot her seducer dead. Yesterday in front of St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church, a German, named Henry Hepner, deliberately shot and killed his own son, and afterwards attempted suicide. And so the cases move out into ghastly prominence, with some hellish distortion of the divine passion, love, at their root. If gallows medicine is the only specific for this epidemic of murder, why is it so rarely administered? At the time that the crimes surge in upon society each murderer and murderess is hanged in imagination, and there only. When homicide fever passes away for a while the murder virus seems to leave the public mind too, and the criminal is forgotten with the crime. The jealous murders, or those founded on sentiment, no matter how morbid, flabby or maudlin, always find their apologists among decent people, who never saw the gashed, riddled or jellied corpse of the victim. These people illustrate the mania by applause of the murder.

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The theory of a murder mania is true also of the more brutal classes of crime, such as the **car-hook murder**, or those that arise out of vulgar brawls in the dens of vice. Awakened unanimous condemnation at the time, they pass into oblivion, and the example idea of the law is frustrated. While in most of the murders which come to light the slayer is found at once or clearly traceable on account of the incidents of passion which were part of the murdered being's lie, there is the class of murder which is the accompaniment of robbery. The failure to trace this class of criminal is a notorious and deplorable commentary on the efficiency of the police, whose sensibilities alone appear to be in no way quickened by the sudden increase of crime. The **Rogers** and **Nathan** murders are as much wrapped in mystery now as at the time of their committal, and the murder of the unfortunate Professor Panormo, a couple of nights ago, seems as if about to be sent to keep company with the other two mockeries of our

system of detection of crime, as they all three shake our belief in the police as a protective or preventive force. There must be no effort spared to bring the assassins of Panormo to justice; but the ignorance; sloth and blundering of the Brooklyn police give us little hope of the result. As in the **Rosenzweig** case, some of the most important links in the chain of evidence have already been worked up by the press writers, and if so-called detectives will only follow the trail public vengeance may yet be satisfied.

"Recent Homicides-the Murder Mania." *New York Herald* 28 Jan 1872.

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The Nandi bear. 1933.

The Nandi bear. 1933. Posted by metan on September 4, 2012 Posted in: Critters , Fortean , old newspapers . Tagged: 1933 , animals , Australia , cryptozoology , drop bear , history , Nandi bear , news , polar bear , Richard Hamilton , Upper Kenya . 27 Comments I love the thought of this deadly monster. The explorer Mr. Richard Hamilton (conveniently a film producer too, no self promotion in this article is there) is going to spend a month trekking into the jungles of Upper Kenya and brave THE WORST PERILS in order to save the natives from the man-killing Nandi bear. I'm not sure why he is bothering though. For one, a month is hardly enough time to have a good look around in your average jungle, is it? Lucky he is picking up those two white hunters that will help him in his travels. ... I wonder if they get paid, monster or no monster? Secondly, according to this article, the jungle is haunted by spooks, and all who enter it are believed to be doomed. Even if he gets rid of the Nandi bear I doubt that the locals will be queuing up to make their home in such an uninviting place. Rumour has it that the Nandi bear was as big as a polar bear and would drop from the trees onto its victims. Hmmm... Can you imagine something the size of a polar bear dropping from the trees onto your head? No wonder that article also says no-one has yet seen this animal. Hardly surprising. The last thing anyone who has encountered this creature saw was 300+kg of death falling from above. You are not likely to crawl out from under that and run home to tell your family, are you? If no-one has seen it how do they know what is lurking in the trees? Could an animal that size actually conceal itself in the foliage? Wouldn't the creaking of branches give away its position long before any dropping could occur? Here in Australia we have a much smaller version of this frightening creature, the Drop bear (*Thylarctos plummetus*)*. It is a carnivorous koala-like creature that waits in the trees for unsuspecting travellers to walk under before dropping onto their heads and, well, eating them. Just one more thing for tourists to be afraid of out in the bush ;) *This is a great link from the Australian Museum. If you have a look, please read the comments. There will be a lot of scared people out there..... Related Nandi bear, again. Even scarier this time. 1925. In "Critters" Barkly Square Shooting. 1939 and 2011. In "old newspapers" A Clever Rat. 1903. In "Critters" Posts navigation ← Fashion to die for. 1923. Nandi bear, again. Even scarier this time. 1925. →

wordpress.com

27 comments on "The Nandi bear. 1933."

1. J. G. Burdette on September 4, 2012 at 12:25 am said:

They must have some strong and large trees for something the size of a polar bear to go frolicking around in ;)

• metan on September 4, 2012 at 12:32 am said:

I just have a mental picture of a polar bear high in a tree, a victim comes into view and it jumps, only to take so long to smash its way through the lower branches that dinner is long gone by the time it hits the ground! ;)

■ J. G. Burdette on September 4, 2012 at 10:25 pm said:

"Just one more thing for tourists to be afraid of out in the bush "

Ha! You know what? I think you're purposefully trying to scare me out of visiting Australia.

■ metan on September 4, 2012 at 10:32 pm said:

No way! You have to come! You'll love it :D

It is only dangerous when you are outside....kidding.... ;)

■ J. G. Burdette on September 4, 2012 at 10:33 pm said:

■ metan on September 4, 2012 at 10:41 pm said:

Apparently Melbourne is the 'worlds most livable city' this year!
<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2012-08-14/melbourne-remains-worlds-most-liveable-city/4198294>

Here is a telco ad that might make you want to come straight over here, I love the way they have rocked up this normally slow song :)

■ J. G. Burdette on September 4, 2012 at 11:02 pm said:

Wow 3 out of 10 (I think) livable cities are Australian? That's really something. Thanks for the extra stuff. I may get around to visiting, still yet

■ metan on September 5, 2012 at 9:21 am said:

I'm not sure if our win just means we had a higher bribery budget than all the others, but I am happy to believe that we won purely on merit ;)

2. lorddavidprosser on September 4, 2012 at 4:19 am said:

I shall be waiting with bated breath to see if he returns to a heroes welcome a month later in 1933, returns with a story of how it got away. how they killed it and tigers ate it or if he slips quietly back and is not heard of again. Of course the Nandi bear may just have dropped on his head and eaten him?

Maybe he kept the cameras rolling and it's all recorded somewhere.

◆ metan on September 4, 2012 at 9:26 am said:

Somehow I think that this will be the last we hear of this little expedition, although I will have a search for the article about his triumphant return! *fanfare*

Remember, all who entered the jungle he was searching were doomed (doooooomed, I say!). I don't hold out much hope for him :)

3. Maryanne on September 4, 2012 at 5:05 am said:

Heehee really enjoyed your visuals!

◆ metan on September 4, 2012 at 9:27 am said:

Thanks :D I could just picture a huge bear falling out of a tree, bouncing off the branches on the way down, oof, oooof, grunt, ungh....thud.... I think the only way it would have a successful hunt is if someone fell asleep under the tree it was hiding in!

■ Maryanne on September 4, 2012 at 7:38 pm said:

Hahahaha love it!

4. Sciencelens on September 4, 2012 at 5:55 am said:

Hehe, so that's why a crocodile is so flat – it was strolling around the woods while the Nandi bear was hunting...

◆ metan on September 4, 2012 at 9:29 am said:

Crikey! What on earth would a 3D crocodile look like? They are scary enough at knee level :D Perhaps that is why they are so grumpy?

5. EllaDee on September 4, 2012 at 6:06 am said:

Haha, as I started to read the news clipping I thought "it's related to our drop bear!..." :) Love the link from the Australian Museum, it's great, and the comments are priceless.

◆ metan on September 4, 2012 at 9:33 am said:

I'm so glad you looked at the link, what a treasure it is! I just laughed and laughed, I wonder how many gullible people have read that, and the comments, and believed? I thought the distribution map was a nice touch too.

I have always thought the Drop bear was funny but now I know it has a proper name (plummetus, ha!) I think it should be more heavily marketed in the tourist brochures. ;)

6. acflory on September 4, 2012 at 9:05 am said:

Oh my... the scientific description of the Drop Bear was just hilarious and the comments! Too good. :D

- metan on September 4, 2012 at 9:35 am said:

So happy you looked at the link, I was thrilled when I found it. If English was your second language and you were doing a bit of pre-trip research you might miss the tongue in cheek tone of the comments and rush to cash in your ticket!

I'm still chuckling over the 'Thylarctos plummetus' :D

- acflory on September 4, 2012 at 11:23 am said:

- giggles- Oh is that why I read the first couple of comments before I twigged? Kidding. :p

7. Jennifer on September 4, 2012 at 10:28 am said:

Lol at the flat crocodiles.. ROFL. And drop bears, priceless, it's good to get the kids with when they're still little enough to be scared...

- metan on September 4, 2012 at 10:35 am said:

I wonder who would win out of a fight between a polar bear and a crocodile? My money is on the polar bear, as long as it started on a good, low, branch first ;)

The flat crocodiles were a very funny thought. If we try things like Drop bears on our kids they just give you an annoyed look and a sarcastic "reeeeally". I'm sure they would love to see one in action though... chomp chomp chomp.....

8. Courtenay Bluebird on September 5, 2012 at 2:11 am said:

Okay... so the link is working now. You (and the Australian Museum) had me all the way up to the forks. Seriously. I am so gullible. *Grins*

- metan on September 5, 2012 at 8:20 am said:

It is a great link, isn't it! I am glad you were sucked in by it, even for a moment. What is the point of myths if they aren't slightly believable :D

I loved the bear-shaped distribution map in the mainly person/tree free centre of Australia too, those drop bears are the skinner, more desperate version of their costal cousins ;)

- Courtenay Bluebird on September 29, 2012 at 8:58 am said:

- Drop bears are the coolest. Have I ever talked to you about the Chupacabra? It's spooooooOOOoooooky!

■ metan on September 29, 2012 at 6:21 pm said:

I think we have discussed the goat sucker before, I love all of those mythological creatures that may or may not be real :)

I don't love them when we are out in the bush, alone..... in the dark.....
shudder

■ Courtenay Bluebird on October 2, 2012 at 10:03 am said:

Well, let's see— there's the Chupacabra, the Man with the Cloven Hooves, and the Donkey Lady. These are the area legends.
Creeeeeepy.

The Man with the Cloven Hooves:
<http://www.snopes.com/horrors/ghosts/devil.asp>

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Saturday, August 1, 2015

The New Hampshire Horror.

4 comments



Jane Ford. James Ruddy. Thomas Samon.

After his wife left him in November, 1883, Thomas Samon began a weekend of drunken debauchery in Laconia, New Hampshire, with Jane Ford, the wife of his landlord. But when the beer ran out Saturday morning, events turned unexpectedly violent, ending in a horrible triple murder

Date: November 25, 1883

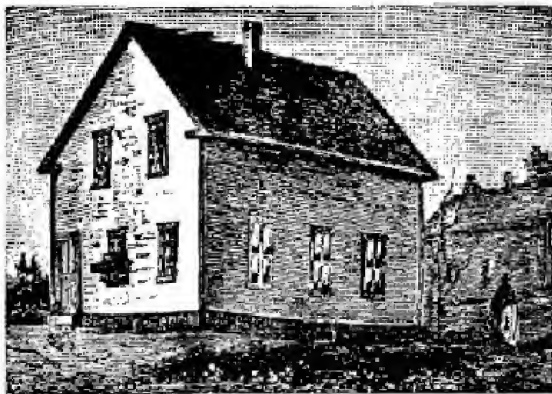
Location: Laconia, New Hampshire

Victim: Jane Ford, James Ruddy, Frank Ruddy

Cause of Death: Beating, Axe Murder

Accused: Thomas Samon

Synopsis:



The Ruddy House, showing the boarded window where Mrs. Ruddy escaped.

Stephen Andrews of Laconia, New Hampshire, suffering from insomnia was still awake in the wee hours of Sunday, November 25, 1883. At 4:00 a.m., he heard screams coming from the house of James and Rosa Ruddy, across the street. He roused his son and they hurried over and found Mrs. Ruddy, lying on the ground, beneath the front window, bleeding profusely. Shards of glass on the ground indicated that she had broken through the closed window.

In agony, Mrs. Ruddy said, "I am all cut to pieces; take me somewhere."

Her body truly was cut to pieces, but the men could see that it was not the broken glass that caused the wounds. It looked as if she had been chopped with an axe. Carefully, they carried her to the house of Mrs. Charles Filgate who lived next door.

Soon after, they saw smoke rising from the Ruddy house. Andrews telephoned police and the

fire departments, then he and the neighbors went inside to try to douse the flames. They quickly put out the fire, but the men were sickened by what they saw inside. Mr. Ruddy and his 13 month old son, Frank, lay with their bodies mutilated and charred under a partially burned feather bed. In the adjoining room, under a straw bed were the charred remains of a woman, her legs nearly severed at the knees. A carpenter's hand axe covered with blood was found in a wood box in the kitchen.

The dead woman was not immediately recognized, but soon Mr. John C. Ford, who lived nearby, came by to see what was happening and recognized her as his wife, Jane. Ford had a bad reputation and had recently been arrested for shooting at boys in the street. His wife had paid a \$50 bond to the town to guarantee his good behavior. Thinking that Ford might be connected with this case, the officers took him into custody.



John Ford was Jane's third husband. As a girl of seventeen in England, she married Clarence Chauncey, twice her age, who brought her to America and died soon after. She then married William Scales, a successful New York saloon-keeper. The couple did a considerable amount of traveling, and lived for a while in Cuba. They moved to Laconia, New Hampshire, and William Scales died as well. Jane Scales remained in New Hampshire, eventually marrying John Ford, a Laconia carpenter. Fifty-nine-year-old Jane Ford had a generally good reputation in Laconia—she belonged to the Ladies' Relief Corps and taught Sunday school at the Unitarian church—but she had lately been backsliding into drunkenness and promiscuity.

At the Filgate house, it looked as though Mrs. Ruddy was dying, but under doctors' care she soon regained her consciousness. By now Sheriff D. B. Story had arrived with his deputies, and the Laconia Selectmen and other government officials were there as well. Realizing the importance of Mrs. Ruddy's testimony, they began questioning her as soon as she was conscious.

She told them that Thomas Samon came the house about 1:00 the previous afternoon, carrying a trunk in a wheelbarrow. He would not say what was in it but asked if he could leave it in their yard. Mrs. Ruddy agreed to let him leave it there until her husband came home; Samon left, saying that he would return later. Samon and Mr. Ruddy both returned at about 5:00, and Samon asked if he could stay the night with them. Samon was their friend and the

Ruddys knew he had recently separated from his wife, so they had no objection. Ruddy helped Samon carry the trunk into the house; Samon said he would explain later what was inside.



That night Samon had trouble sleeping and the Ruddys heard him walking around the house. They

got up and got dressed then went to find out what was the matter. Samon was too nervous to sleep, he said he thought he heard people trying to get into the house. Mrs. Ruddy left her husband quietly talking with Samon, and went back to bed. She was awakened some time later by a heavy thud coming from the kitchen. She went into the kitchen and found her husband dead, in a chair with his head hanging over the back. Before she could touch him Samon rushed her and struck her with an axe nearly cutting off her hand. He hit her again and she fell to the floor. The baby started crying then and Samon went to him. Mrs. Ruddy could hear the blow that struck the child. Samon returned with boy's body and laid it beside Mr. Ruddy, then he took a feather bed and put it over the two bodies. Mrs. Ruddy pretended to be dead while Samon poured kerosene over the bed and over her. When he set the feather bed on fire she sprang up screaming, ran into the front room and jumped through the window, breaking the large pane of glass, to make her escape.

John Ford said he had not seen his wife since the preceding Friday evening; she had been in the company of Thomas Samon for two or three nights. The police believed his story and set him free.

A hastily convened coroner's jury indicted Samon for three murders and the search for him began. He had left town shortly after setting the fire and it was believed he was heading for Plymouth, New Hampshire, where his wife worked.



Thomas Samon was about fifty years old at the time of the murders. He had come to America from Dublin when he was quite young, along with his brother, who opened a successful wholesale liquor dealership in Boston. Thomas was quiet and industrious, becoming a proficient hotel cook, well-known in among the leading hotels in New Hampshire. In 1882 he married Johanna Welch and they set up housekeeping in the Laconia tenement owned by the Fords, where the first murder took place. But Samon suffered from alcoholism and depression and had attempted suicide, at least once, by jumping off the South Boston bridge. At the time of the murders, Samon and his wife were living apart.

The Selectmen of Laconia offered a \$500 reward for Samon's capture, and telegraphed all of the nearby towns. At about 4:00 that afternoon, word arrived from Plymouth that Samon had been arrested there and would be taken back to Laconia on Monday.

Samon denied any knowledge of the crime. Believing that the fire had destroyed the evidence, he said that he intended to move his furniture to Plymouth and had moved his trunk full of household goods to the Ruddys' on Saturday in preparation. He went back to the Fords' and slept until 5:00 a.m. when he rose and started for Plymouth on foot, having no money for the train. It was not until Thursday, November 28, Thanksgiving Day, that Samon learned that the Ruddy house had not burned to the ground. Realizing that his story would not hold, Samon agreed to confess.

As John Ford had said, Thomas Samon and Jane Ford had been sleeping together for several nights before the murders. They had also been drinking heavily. They drank whiskey and beer all night Friday, and Saturday morning Mrs. Ford asked if there was any more lager. When Samon said no, an argument ensued and quickly turned violent. Samon flung her to the floor and pressed down on her chest with his foot. When he lifted his foot he found that Mrs. Ford was dead. In desperation, and considerably less than sober, he decided to pack her body into a trunk, chopping her legs at the knees to make her fit. He put the trunk in a wheelbarrow and wheeled it away to dispose of the body.

Samon had no idea what to do with the body; he ended up at the home of his friends, the Ruddys, and thought if he could sleep there he would take it away in the morning and bury it somewhere. From this point, Samon's story matched Mrs. Ruddy's. He brought the trunk into

the house but did not tell them what was inside. That night Samon could not sleep, believing the house was surrounded and he would be captured. Around three in the morning the idea struck him that if he killed the Ruddys and burned down their house, all evidence of his crimes would be gone. "The very moment that the thought came to me I struck Ruddy." Samon told the police.

Arraignment: March 31, 1884

The courtroom in Laconia was full when Thomas Samon was arraigned for murder and at least 500 people stood outside. Samon's court appointed attorneys complained to the judge that it was difficult to proceed when their client was determined to plead guilty to first degree murder. Before the court would accept the plea, Samon was examined by Dr. J. P. Bancroft of Concord and Dr. George F. Jelly of Cambridge, Massachusetts, to determine his sanity. After examining Samon's current condition, his past and his family lineage, the doctors concluded that there was no proof that he was insane presently or any time in the past. His suicide attempts, they said, naturally followed from the debaucheries in which he indulged.

Samson's guilty plea was accepted, and without a trial he was sentenced to be hanged in April 17, 1885. When the sentence was read, Samson's wife threw her arms around him and started sobbing. "It is all right," he said, "my sentence is just, I will go to the gallows like a man."

Verdict: Guilty of first degree murder

Aftermath:

Thomas Samon had little sleep the night before the hanging, he was up past midnight drinking coffee and smoking cigars. He ate no breakfast that morning, and after receiving his last rights by Fathers Barry and Henry he was led to the gallows. True to his word, Thomas Samon maintained his composure to the last and met his fate without flinching.

Sources:

Book:

Particulars of the New Hampshire Horror. Laconia: J. Lane & Co., 1883.

Newspapers:

"An Almost Incredible Crime." *New York Herald* 26 Nov 1883.

"New Hampshire Horror." *National Police Gazette* 15 Dec 1883.

"Samon Confesses." *New York Tribune* 4 Dec 1883.

"Samon Refuses To Confess." *New York Tribune* 3 Dec 1883.

"Samon, The Triple Murderer." *Truth* 4 Dec 1883.

"Samon's Neck Broken." *New Haven Register* 17 Apr 1885.

"The Leconia Tragedy." *Daily Evening Bulletin* 1 Apr 1884.

"Triple Murder at Laconia, N.H." *Springfield Republican* 26 Nov 1883.

4 comments :

Synthia Baker says:

August 4, 2015 at 2:46 PM

How did Andrews telephone police? The Bell & Watson telephone was not successful until 1876. There's no way it was widely utilized in just six short years.

Gilbert says:

August 4, 2015 at 6:17 PM

According to Wikipedia, the first telephone exchange opened in Boston in 1877 and the first commercial US telephone exchange opened in New Haven, Connecticut in 1878. So, it's possible.

Robert Wilhelm says:

August 5, 2015 at 7:53 AM

Thanks for the fact checking Gilbert. Yes, it is possible, the telephone spread rapidly in New England. And, the telephone call was reported in the newspaper. I don't make this stuff up.

The Warty Hogg says:

September 16, 2015 at 4:45 PM

In the town I live in in Montana, there was a limited telephone exchange with 22 subscribers that reached around town and out to the local Fort in 1878. And we were in the middle of NOWHERE those days.

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Saturday, October 3, 2015

The North Carolina Tragedy.



*The Carawans' Home The Murder of
Charles Lassiter Carawan in Prison
Burying the Body.*

The Reverend George Washington Carawan, prominent and powerful North Carolina Baptist minister was a man of violent temper and strong animal passions, more apt to inspire terror than piety in those around him. The sorrows he begat in his relationships would follow him to the courtroom for the last savage act in Carawan's tragedy.

Date: November 15, 1852

Location: Hyde County, North Carolina

Victim: Charles H. Lassiter

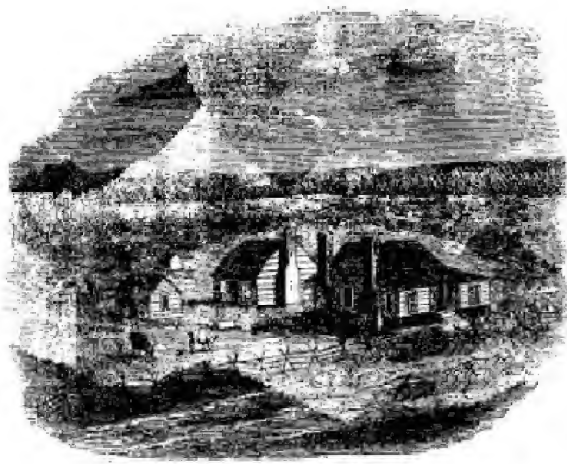
Cause of Death: Gunshot

Accused: Rev. George W. Carawan

Synopsis:

George Washington Carawan was born in Hyde County, North Carolina, in 1800. His father died when he was only four years old, and Carawan was raised by his mother, a strict member of the Old School Baptist church, known for her strong will and violent temper. Though he was well schooled in scripture, he was more influenced by his mother's harsh methods, becoming at an early age, profane and callous, using his knowledge of the Bible to mock religion.

In 1822, he married Elizabeth Carrow and took up farming. In 1827, he reversed his opinions on religion and declared himself converted. He was baptized into the South Mattamuskeet Baptist Church and soon after felt called to the ministry and founded two churches in Carteret County. His brother was also a preacher and on his death, Carawan took over the congregation in Goose Creek. His influence continued to grow and for twenty years he had charge of all the Old School Baptist churches in four counties and had baptized more than five hundred persons. He lived on a large farm Mattamuskeet Lake, and owned several slaves.



Though a preacher of the gospel, George Carawan remained a man of violent temper and strong passions. In 1839, his wife suddenly died from symptoms resembling arsenic poisoning. Three weeks after her death, Carawan married Mary Bell, who had been living with the family.

Carawan regularly beat his wife, sometimes knocking her down with clenched fist, and continued having mistresses on the side. A young woman named Polly Richards charged him with the paternity of her child, leading to his dismissal from the church. After repentance and promises, he was reinstated. The child stayed with his family until mysteriously dying at age three.

In 1852, a young teacher named Clement H. Lassiter was boarding with the Carawans. A quiet and reserved man, Lassiter was well-liked by his students and their parents. One day he found Carawan beating his wife over some trivial matter and tried to intercede. Carawan turned his wrath on Lassiter, and Lassiter pulled out his knife to defend himself. The fight went no further, but Carawan sent Lassiter away.

Carawan accused Lassiter of being intimate with his wife and went so far as to have his wife testify before the magistrates that Lassiter had raped her. This was so obvious a fabrication that the magistrates refused to act, not wanting Mrs. Carawan to perjure herself. Lassiter then sued Carawan for slander, seeking \$2,000 in damages. Carawan was enraged; he told several of his neighbors that Lassiter ought to be shot.

After leaving Carwan's house, Lassiter boarded at the home of Dorset Mason. The night of Sunday, November 14, he told Mason that he had to go to the school in Mattamuskeet Lake but was fearful of walking up the turnpike, past Carawan's. The next morning he took his carpet bag and walked up the road, making several stops to converse with neighbors, then continued along the road toward the lake. Lassiter never reached his destination and was never again seen alive.



A few days later, Lassiter's friends learned that he was missing and, fearing the worst, began searching the woods on both sides of the turnpike. Saturday afternoon, two men happened upon a mossy spot within a dense thicket, with nothing suspicious but a few clumps of dirt and a decaying laurel limb. Beneath the turf, in a shallow grave they found the body of Clement Lassiter, riddled with buckshot. The find was so fortuitous that it was attributed to "the finger of Providence."

News of the discovery traveled fast, and when Carawan heard it he said to his nephew, Carawan Sawyer, and his favorite slave, Seth, "Boys, I must go away, or I shall be hung." Later Carwan told Sawyer he would transfer ownership of Seth to him if he would say that Carwan was home all day on Monday. He then packed his bags and left North Carolina.

Carawan traveled by train and steamboat to Chatanooga, Tennessee and lived there for several months under the name John Forbes. He had given power of attorney to a friend back in Hyde, and instructed him to sell his property. The friend, however, became convinced of Carawan's guilt and refused to have anything further to do with him. Reluctantly Carawan returned to North Carolina to sell the property himself. He planned to hide out on Goose Creek Island, where he had friends who still regarded Carawan as their spiritual leader, and secretly arrange the sale of his property. He left the island in the dead of night, and went to his old home to see his wife. Carawan's slave, Seth, spotted him as he entered the house, and immediately informed one of the neighbors. A crowd soon assembled, surrounding the house, and Carawan was arrested.

Trial: November 23, 1853



While in jail awaiting trial, George Carawan sent two letters to supporters, instructing his friends to persuade Carwan Sawyer to leave town – “to put aside that evidence by hook or by crook,” implying that Sawyer should be killed if he did not leave town. The letters were intercepted by the authorities.

The letters were used in court against Carawan, along with a considerable amount of circumstantial evidence. Many witnesses had heard Carwan say that Lassiter should be killed. Carawan had been seen going into the woods with a shotgun that Monday. Three different sizes of buckshot were found in Lassiter’s body, the same as was currently loaded in Carawan’s gun. But most damaging was the testimony of Carawan Sawyer, that his uncle had tried to bribe him to lie about his whereabouts, he also testified that he had seen his uncle with a gun that day.

The defense challenged all of the testimony, even the assumption that the murder had been committed that Monday. They challenged the admissibility of Sawyer’s testimony because it was different than his testimony before the coroner’s jury.

The judge, at first, was inclined to agree with the defense. In his instructions to the jury, he told them to disregard the contradictory testimony of Carawan Sawyer. But after the jury had been out for half an hour, the judge had a change of heart. He called them back and instructed them to use their own judgment in weighing Sawyer’s testimony.

George Carawan had been elated at the judge’s first instruction, believing he would be acquitted, but after the judge’s second instruction he was convinced that he would be convicted. That night, as the jury deliberated, Carawan requested that his family and friends visit him in jail so he could say his goodbyes.

The next day Carawan was brought to court to hear the jury’s verdict. They found him guilty; the defense requested that the jury be polled, and each man in turn, when asked, responded “Guilty.” As the judge discharged the jury, George Carawan reached into his shirt and pulled out a small, single-shot pistol, and fired at prosecuting attorney E. J. Warren, hitting him just above the heart. Amid the ensuing confusion, Carawan pulled out another pistol and, in spite of deputy sherrif Hinton’s attempt to stop him, fired into his own temple. Bleeding profusely, Carawan fell to the floor and died soon after.

Verdict: Guilty of murder

Aftermath:



In North Carolina, a slave was not permitted to testify in court against his master, but after the trial, Carawan's slave, Seth, told what he knew of the murder. Just before dark, on that Monday night, Carawan came to him and said that he had killed Lassiter and they must go into the woods and bury the body. Seth reluctantly went with him. They tied the body "hog fashion," and dragged it to the spot Carawan had selected. Carawan cut away the turf with a knife, and using sticks and their bare hands they dug a shallow grave. They untied the body, put it in the grave, and replaced the turf.

Seth had been the one who turned Carawan in after his return to Hyde. It is also possible that his was the "finger of Providence" that pointed the searchers to Lassiter's body.

Sources:

Book:

The North Carolina Tragedy: Trial of the Rev. Geo. W. Carawan, Baptist Preacher. Printed for the proprietor, New York: 1854.

Newspapers:

"A Clergyman Convicted Of Murder." *Daily Atlas* 7 Dec 1853.

"Conviction of a Clergyman of Murder--His Suicide." *Washington Sentinel* 9 Dec 1853.

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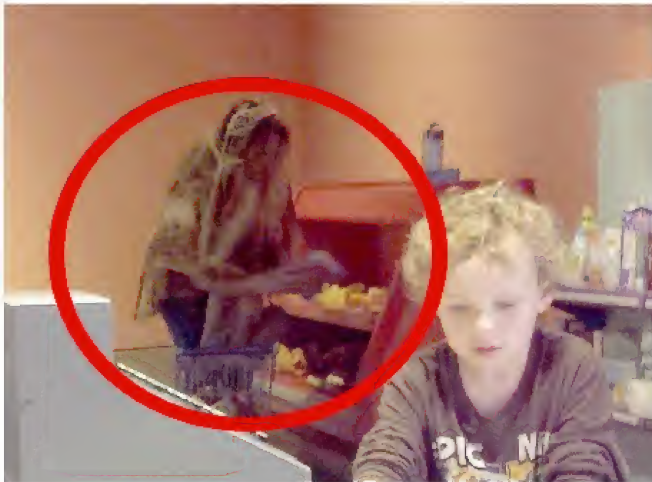
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"Southern Atrocities and Horrors." *Liberator* 12 Aug 18

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The Old Hag: Terrifying “Ghost Photo” Captured at Texas’ Fort Worth Museum



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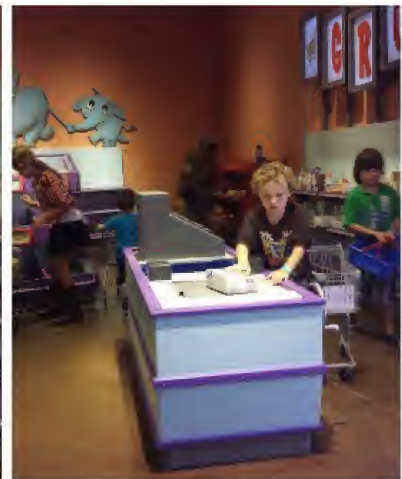
If you're trying to stave off sleep, I've got the perfect picture to guarantee you'll be up at 2am. A creepy-as-hell photo taken at Texas' Fort Worth Museum of Science and History might take the cake for one of the creepiest potential ghost photos of all time.

The image was snapped during an afternoon trip to FWM for a bit of fun, unfortunately what he photographed lurking around in the background was anything but.

What appears to be a... well, let's be



PmUntK4 copy



UShrzyA

honest, a hideously disfigured old woman covered in soiled shroud, is lurking around in children's section of the museum, surrounded by happy kids playing with no regard to the spooky sight near them.

The old hag's arms are severely distorted, she appears to be standing *inside* a child-sized grocery cart, and that's not even the weirdest part. The photographer, who submitted the image to Reddit under the name KRAMERisKRUNK, has absolutely no memory of anything remotely resembling a terrifying old lady standing in the background of his photo.

Obviously, plenty of people jumped in with their two cents, a museum employee who explained that a handful of security guards have had strange experiences like things being moved, particularly when the FWM hosted their Titanic exhibit.

Nothing else is known about the image, the possible ghost, or whether or not the Fort Worth Museum has a longer history of paranormal occurrences, especially in the children's section.

to be a button attachment on the top and there is something that appears to attach it to her waist or arm, although this small "attachment-" looking thing could just be a loose thread

—what she is holding appears to be a small baby doll. It has some type of white gauzy thing around its head. I see a little face in there. This would not be unusual in a museum shop.

24. Russell

10/11/2015 at 11:06 PM

I think it is just unintentionally creepy and it is a lady dressed oddly and out of focus. But who knows.

For all I know it could be a real mystical being.

25. Gary Richards

10/11/2015 at 11:23 PM

Wow, Disclose.tv stole this entire article from you guys, word for word.

26. Rafael

10/12/2015 at 6:51 AM

This is a hoax. One, the canister on top next to the stupid image is not in the before picture and two, the milk container on the floor isn't there any more.

• tali

10/17/2015 at 6:04 AM

Did you also notice that the two items on the shelf below the elephants were gone in the second photo?

27. NJ_Cheryl

10/12/2015 at 9:27 AM

To Rafael: So did the photographer say that the photos were snapped consecutively? If so, can you provide a link to that quote. If the photographer did say that, then there might be grounds for suspicion.

I reviewed the OP, but do not see anything about that. I did go to Reddit and check the original thread. Maybe I missed it?

28. rob

10/12/2015 at 11:45 AM

Not so scary -especially when you consider the "ghost" appears to be wearing blue jeans or possibly jean shorts on close inspection.

• Amirah Kukan

10/20/2015 at 3:58 PM

Honestly, so what if it is wearing blue jeans?! V everyone is saying that. Loads of people have died since the birth of denim. To me she looks like a Native American wearing a poncho and BLUE JEANS! Your point? Everyone's POINT????

29. T Hex

10/12/2015 at 12:06 PM

Looks like the new Dr Doom from the last Fantastic 4 flop.

30. Jack

10/12/2015 at 3:48 PM

No idea if its fake or not, but for everyone who thinks the hag is wearing jeans look again. If you zoom in, you can clearly see that it is a blue box in the cart and not part of the hag itself.

31. Coppertop

10/12/2015 at 6:42 PM

I live in Fort Worth, actually. Maybe I'll go visit and see if the old hag is hanging around.

32. deborah

10/13/2015 at 1:41 AM

The figure is casting a shadow on the shelf. Is it expected that a creepy hag ghost could do this?

33. Brian

10/14/2015 at 9:14 AM

Just tuned in by way of Rich Reynolds' recommendation.

Yes an odd image and perhaps faked or perhaps a mistaken jumping kid in a toy cart blurred captured in the moment of his nefarious leap...

But here ate some things so noted from comments above:

– This is a children's play area so don't confuse it with your local H-E-B.

- Adults also play with kids in these areas, so not unusual to have parents play acting in photos (probably not jumping in a cart though).
- Parents snap photos of their kids – don't ask dumb questions as to why anyone would take a shot in there. People do it all the time.
- The cart is really there physically and it's the one the other kid was playing with, but the cloaked figure does not seem to be there physically.
- Jeans and head phones? Why do you think it's odd for an apparition to be wearing jeans? Are they supposed to be wearing a dress or shorts to be real?
- There is a head piece and no it does not seem like the kid in the back was wearing one seconds before. The headpiece last looks to me to be a floral hair band with a little crown type front.
- The kid in the back wasn't wearing these clothes and certainly not a dirty hooded cloak.

Given that cloaked apparitions are pretty common, and that they appear in all sorts of sizes and odd shapes, there is merit to this one being real.

More interesting would be the history of the building. Most children's museums are nonprofits located in old buildings. There may be a connection that links the apparition's image to a particular time period.

34. Brian

10/14/2015 at 9:16 AM

Please excuse typos – autocorrect nonsense.

35. threedoves

10/15/2015 at 8:03 AM

This really reminds me of the gray lady 'ghost' captured at Hampton Court earlier this year. <http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/weird-news/ghost-grey-lady-caught-camera-5225692>

In that case, most people seemed to think it was some kind of artifact caused by the cell phone's camera. A really really creepy artifact. (I'm not entirely convinced, but it may have been debunked more thoroughly when I wasn't looking.)

I really want to be skeptical of this shot, but I also really want to believe it, because it's an awesome shot and I do believe in ghosts. But! It could just be a museum worker putting the stuff in the play area back in order (and moving very quickly, causing a her to show up as a colorless blur), or it could be some kind of camera malfunction, or... it

could be a ghost lady with no legs and a veil over her face. Jury's out. Probably it's not the latter.

(But then why does she have no color? Why is she wearing what looks like old mourning garb? Why does this shot give me the heebitieejeebies?)

36. hannah

10/23/2015 at 2:17 PM

Look at the kid in the blue...he keeps staring in the corner.

37. PD42

10/23/2015 at 3:27 PM

I don't suppose it would make any difference to anyone if they knew this museum has several Islamic families that are members who visit on a regular basis and the women from those families dress in traditional Islamic garb? That was the first thing I thought of when I saw this image – one of our Islamic guests caught while in motion.

And yes – this is a children's area, but parents are hardly discouraged from joining their children as they play, so there's no reason this couldn't be an adult.

In addition, for those who say the figure is 'crouching' in the cart, that distinctly looks like a bag on her hip, you can even see the bag strap.

To be honest, I love a good ghost photo, too, but this one – while maybe not an intentional hoax, is easily debunked.

- TBR

11/03/2015 at 7:22 PM

Just curious, but do you work here? Not to discount what you're saying but it would be helpful in debunking this if you had real life experience with this place. Thanks!

38. mike

11/01/2015 at 1:49 PM

1) Everyone is assuming that "it" is a "she". It looks a bit like long hair, kinda like there's shawl/veil but breasts, face, legs, hips are all indistinguishable. The biggest reason you're calling it a "she" is because that's what Dana called it in the article, which is the same reason you're presuming it's a ghost/hag at all. Behold, crowd manipulation or maybe NLP if you buy into that.

2) Occam's razor. Occam's razor. Occam's razor.

3) Yet another blurry photo of a supposed apparition. Those pesky ghosts just won't hold still. Good thing they can still fool CCD's the way they did photographic emulsions, at least

4) It was submitted (not found, but initially submitted for review) on the public internet.

5) It was submitted in the public internet on Reddit

6) It was submitted in the public internet on Reddit by someone calling themselves "KRAMERisKRUNK"

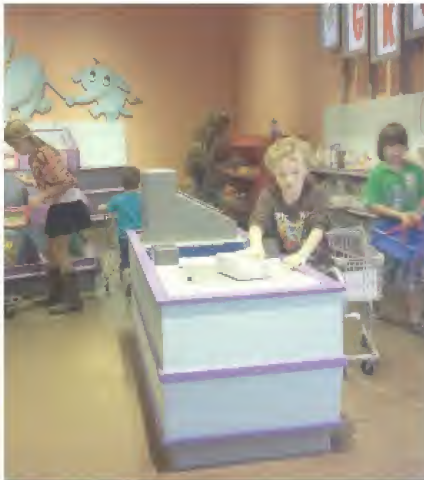
#4/5/6 are decidedly circumstantial but replace the scenario with someone saying "Make tons of money doing this" and see how you feel. Why do you give this one more stock than that?

39. kyah harrington

11/02/2015 at 5:05 PM

What makes this photo more believable is the unclaimed trolley. im not really sure about this one???

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ZZmDXVv



pFi0Vz4

Regardless, you can't deny that the image is pretty strange.

Dana Matthews

65 Comments

1. Greg Newkirk

10/08/2015 at 2:02 PM

Yikes, man.

• mike

10/12/2015 at 11:37 AM

Look at the bottom shelf. Center.... a face in perfect detail. Scary looking. Just as much as the woman with a skull?... in her hand.

• Thomas Buyea

10/12/2015 at 12:37 PM

If this is a museum why does it look like a grocery store ?



■ Greg Newkirk

10/12/2015 at 12:44 PM

Never been a children's museum before?

Reply

■ Linda

10/12/2015 at 1:40 PM

It's set up to look like a grocery store, with fake food and fake registers so the kids can play store. It's definitely the kind of place you'd notice someone out of place.

• Buckeye

10/16/2015 at 3:25 PM

I don't know any ghosts that wear skinny jeans, floral top, matching flower

headband, a wristlet wallet / purse, and matching red flats.

Also, this ghost casts a shadow.

Come on, sheep.

- Amirah Kukan

10/20/2015 at 3:47 PM

What's wrong with what she's wearing. FYI ghosts can turn up from any era, that includes your hippie theory. Though she doesn't look like she just wondered in out of haight st. She looks more like Native American to me.

2. Jeri Michelle

10/08/2015 at 2:06 PM

I can't stop staring. It's just so weird.

- Greg Newkirk

10/08/2015 at 2:07 PM

It's weird, because it looks like the thing is sitting in the cart.. or standing.. of going right through it. I can't tell. This is a really bizarre one.

- Jeri Michelle

10/08/2015 at 2:11 PM

It almost looks like feet, like its crouching on its toes...but I'm not sure how that would be possible, given the position of the rest of the body. Of course, that's assuming it was human. I keep staring at what looks like a headpiece; it looks vaguely like headphones. But it definitely has something on its head that seems apart from the shroud.

3. Marcy Smith

10/08/2015 at 2:36 PM

Why does it look like it's wearing jeans?

- Tina Sena

10/11/2015 at 11:51 AM

It does look like it's wearing jeans, and a flower headband and a floral shirt. It's most likely a woman shopping and just a glitch with the camera...

- Elle Winstead

10/13/2015 at 4:14 PM

The thing is, you CAN'T shop in there. It's a fake store for kids to PRETEND they are shopping, so there is no way that a grown woman COULD be shopping there. I am not saying it is definitely paranormal, but it sure is strange given the circumstances.

4. Delia Summerfield

10/08/2015 at 2:36 PM

Everyone in the photo is accounted for except the child wearing the same colors as the "ghost". He probably made some quick movements (for only reasons that kids know) as the photo was snapped. Because I'm an expert.

- Katie Faulhaber

10/08/2015 at 3:16 PM

I don't see any kid wearing the same colors in the before picture? The blonde kid is the one in the foreground of the after.

- Brandon

10/10/2015 at 9:30 AM

While I don't think it is what it is purported to be, that is a really weak explanation. Even the typical skeptic/scientific materialist would do better than that. Why not a simpler explanation? Why not consider that it was staged, and the kids were in on the ruse? Or perhaps it's very skillful photo manipulation.

My experience tells me that these things are a very real part of our world, but this looks fake.

- Terry

10/12/2015 at 2:21 PM

If "the hag" was an unexpected surprise, why is she centred in the photograph and why was this person photographing children in the first place.

- Greg Newkirk

10/12/2015 at 2:30 PM

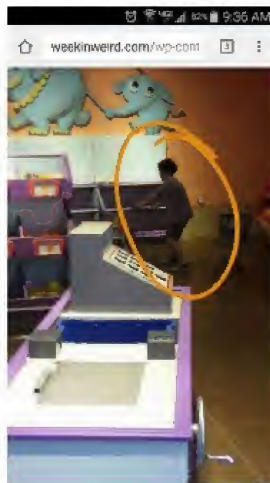
Just to play devil's dvocate: lots of people really suck at framing their pictures, especially if they're trying to capture action on a cell phone.

What baffles me is that everyone is so concerned with saying that the "hag" is wearing jeans, and not that some super fucked-up looking monster is riding around in a cart.

• Delia Summerfield

10/08/2015 at 3:38 PM

This child is not in the hag picture but wearing the same colors as the "ghost". It's probably him and some kind of result of fast movement during exposure.



■ Duane

10/12/2015 at 7:56 PM

I believe you are right. Look at the placement of the cart behind the child, it sure looks like the same one "the Hag" is using.

■ Tom

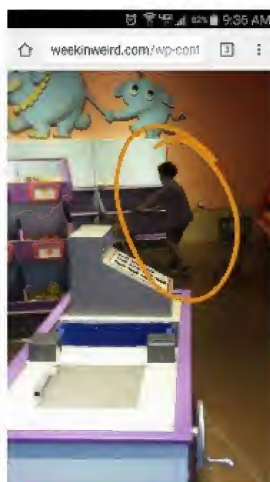
10/13/2015 at 8:32 AM

Case solved IMO. Good catch there.

• JA Adams

10/08/2015 at 3:39 PM

That's what I was thinking, like he was jumping around when the photo was taken



• Patricia Hutchins

10/08/2015 at 4:32 PM

I can see what you are saying. The 2 things that would make me guess that is not it are the kid in the grey shirt was headed behind the big bins in the first pic and wouldn't be visible for the second pic and if he was jumping around I think the little boy in the blue shirt would be looking at him. He seems completely unaware there is someone/thing in front of him.

■ Kimberly



10/09/2015 at 8:17 AM

For one the kid isn't tall enough to be the ghost image in the back..either that is a amazing photoshop or a real entity..

• jon

10/10/2015 at 8:37 PM

Good call! You can see something red and something yellow in the kids cart and you also see the same items in the "hags" cart, the kid you are referring to has clearly caught the attention of the little kid with the blue shirt in the before photo and in the last photo he is still looking at him as he heads in that direction. I say you've done it again Holmes!

• Elle Winstead

10/13/2015 at 4:19 PM

So did he also grow his arms to an unusually long length and sprout an extra almost foot in height as a gag, too? If you are talking about the kid in the gray shirt and dark shorts, if you look at him in relation to the red shelves his head barely comes to the top of them, but in the picture with the "thing", its head is WELL above the top of those shelves. Also, those carts are not the sturdiest in the world, there is no way a good sized kid could stand in them without falling over. We have been to this place and seen those carts in person. Of course, there was no "hag" there that day so I can't speak for "her".

5. Sheila Schlederer

10/08/2015 at 2:46 PM

I almost spit my coffee across the room **points up to Zazz Afrazz*^*^* "buying a sammich" BAHAAHAHA!!

6. Danielle Meierhenry

10/08/2015 at 2:48 PM

Ghosts would OBVIOUSLY be into history – why are we discriminating against this dudes nostalgia??

7. Walter T. Rogers

10/08/2015 at 3:02 PM

Strange Creatures like This have And Always Will be a Part of Our Haunted Planet!!..

8. Hillary Brena

10/08/2015 at 3:50 PM

Its too bad Fact or Faked isn't still on tv. They could figure out whats going on.

9. Aisling

10/08/2015 at 9:23 AM

That is definitely very odd.

10. JP

10/08/2015 at 11:07 AM

My daughter had a panic attack while doing through the Titanic exhibit at that museum. She said she felt very weird and couldn't breath. As soon as we exited the exhibit she was fine.

11. Jess Meunier

10/08/2015 at 6:23 PM

I thought it looked like it was wearing jeans too.

12. Dan Easter

10/08/2015 at 12:16 PM

Here I was thinking that after I die grocery shopping would be over forever. So here we have a ghoul, ghost, something that is trying to grocery shop.

There is a Hell after all, and it doesn't have a double coupon Monday.

13. greg

10/08/2015 at 5:06 PM

it has also left a bottle of water or something on the top shelf .Now thats scary!

14. Edwards Jeffrey

10/09/2015 at 12:54 AM

Bullshit! If your going to take a photo of your kid doing something you don't put him off centre! This was purposely done!

- Martin Zuniga

10/17/2015 at 1:17 PM

I would normally agree with you but in this case if I were taking the pic, I would try to get as much of the surroundings since the surroundings is also the oddity that would make the pic more memorable.

15. Rachael Maack

10/09/2015 at 3:23 AM

Creepy!

16. Sb

10/08/2015 at 11:59 PM

Fake. Sweet trying to do to scare the kiddos, but total staged

17. CJ

10/09/2015 at 12:47 AM

In the last picture of the series the child on the aqua colored shirt in the lower left-hand corner appears to be looking right at the figure. It would be interesting to know what he was looking at.

18. Jann j

10/09/2015 at 12:48 AM

The face looks odd, as though the individual has brownish gauze across the face..

19. Clark Stephen

10/09/2015 at 4:47 PM

I believe in ghost but this one for me is fake. I mean, why is it I can see her wearing jeans? And 2nd i see some stuff on her trolley like bottle or bread or whatever long item than is then 3rd i could see her hand is holding something but due to fast movement of her hand i can't tell what it is... Like the guy said he didn't remember anyone behind that kid but why is there a trolley? I'm guessing someone left it there so that someone can go back and grab something what she forgot. Last but not least i can see her shadow as well...

20. David

10/09/2015 at 8:07 PM

It was really cool, that the photographer, not knowing the ghost was there was able to

capture both of them dead center in the pic. Also, is that a ghost bottle and box that appeared on the shelf?

21. Fr Steve Carrington

10/10/2015 at 8:08 AM

Probably ET catching up on some grocery supplies.

22. Dana Matthews

10/10/2015 at 6:00 PM

I think a majority of people think this pic is a fake, or accidentally creepy. Agreed?

23. NJ_Cher

10/11/2015 at 9:13 AM

For me, the jury is still out. I studied the picture over carefully last night, and enlarged it. For awhile, I did think it was faked, but now I am not so sure. One reason I don't think it's fake is that it is so unusual looking. Generally speaking, few people have much of an imagination. I don't think a person faking this could come up with anything so weird, confusing, etc. However, that is speculating on a motive, something that is entirely non-scientific, so take my rationale with a grain of salt...as you should with any other commentary that speculates on a motive. No one can say what another's motive is. See attribution theory.

Anyway, here's what I see:

- a woman who appears to be shopping
- the woman has a veil on, held in place with a headband that has a rose or some other embellishment on it at the top. The veil has a pattern.
- the woman's face is also covered by the veil
- the face is hard to see, but I see eyes and a mouth
- the veil is also a poncho, or is separate; regardless of whether it's one or two garments, it goes down into the cart as she leans over
- there is a white strip on the poncho at the area near the elbow
- the arm is distorted, especially at the elbow area, and does not appear to have a joint, like what a human might have
- there appears to be only three fingers, or perhaps four with the middle two held together
- the pants appear to be blue
- she is not in the cart, but rather standing behind it. One can see a knee on the right hand side of where the cart would narrow if she were standing behind it
- Both knees appears to be bent slightly
- there are items in the bottom, larger part of the cart
- there is one item in the top part of the cart that appears to be a handbag. There seems



The sailors who brought down the German Empire

The Local · 30 Oct 2015, 12:03

Published: 30 Oct 2015 12:03
GMT+01:00

On October 29th 1918, the First World War was all but over - but German Navy ships were due to launch one final assault on the British fleet. The German government knew nothing about it, and the sailors were against it. This doomed assault would spark a revolution that

brought the German Empire crashing down.

The order came on October 24th 1918: the German fleet at the North Sea port of Wilhelmshaven was to prepare for battle.

Admiral Franz von Hipper was commander of the High Seas Fleet at the time.

A couple of days earlier, he had been instructed by Reinhard Scheer, German Admiralty Staff Chief, to prepare for an attack on the British fleet.

They would set out on October 30th from Wilhelmshaven, meeting the Royal Navy's Grand Fleet in the southern North Sea before conducting a raid on the Thames and the Flander's Coast.

But on October 29th - the eve of the planned attack – sailors began to mutiny.

Sailors 'knew they wouldn't survive'

Klaus Kuhl, author of a blog documenting the sailors' revolts, has carried out extensive research into the 1918 mutiny.

"The German Navy knew they weren't as powerful as the British fleet," he told The Local.

In spite of this, they ordered the fleet to set sail – but as far as sailors were concerned, this was a suicide mission.

"The German sailors were convinced they would not survive such a battle," Kuhl explained.

"The ratio between English and German sailors was almost 2:1."

An attempt to continue the war?

It wasn't just a conviction of failure that triggered the revolt.

Amongst the sailors, fears arose that this attack could damage the credibility of Germany's new democratic government, led by Chancellor Prince Maximilian of Baden.

Earlier in October, Baden had begun diplomatic talks with US President Woodrow Wilson.

"Germany's new government wanted armistice, and peace negotiations," Kuhl told The Local.

But the government had no idea of Scheer's plan.

"Sailors thought that the navy officers wanted to hamper peace plans," Kuhl said, "and continue the war despite the government's efforts."



The SMS Helgoland, one of the battleships on which sailors revolted. Photo: Wikimedia Commons

Active rebellion

On the afternoon of October 29th, the High Seas Fleet assembled at Schillig Roads.

Mutinous demonstrations took place on several ships, as sailors refused to prepare for battle.

On the SMS Thüringen and SMS Helgoland – both First Squadron battleships – crews actively rebelled, with stokers turning off the boilers and refusing to work.

When torpedo boats drew alongside these boats and aimed cannons at the crews, the mutineers stepped down.

But by now, Hipper knew that the fleet couldn't set sail under these conditions.

The plan was abandoned, and around 1,000 sailors were arrested and sent to stand trial in Kiel.

The revolt was over in Wilhelmshaven – but over the next few days, mutinous spirit spread.

On November 3rd, the Kiel mutiny began.

A new era for Germany

The revolution that swept across Germany in the next week was immense.

By November 4th, Kiel was in the hands of some 40,000 rebellious sailors, soldiers and

workers - and Wilhelmshaven soon followed.

On November 7th, the revolution reached Munich, and on November 9th, the republic was proclaimed as Kaiser Wilhelm II was forced to abdicate.

With the monarchy swept aside, this was the start of a new era in German history: the Weimar Republic.

'No chance to avoid defeat'

What would have happened if those sailors in Wilhelmshaven had never revolted on October 29th?

Kuhl is uncertain.

The German government "would probably not have dared to confront the military," he told The Local.

"Nevertheless someone would have had to negotiate for peace," he said, "and there was no chance to avoid the defeat."

"So perhaps in the end the military would have been forced to publicly acknowledge their defeat - which was avoided as they sent the new government for negotiations - and this would have given less chances for the spread of the stab-in-the-back myth."

But it's always difficult for historians to answer the "what ifs," he said.

One thing seems certain: Scheer's planned attack on October 30th was doomed from the start.

"If things had gone well, they could have made heavy blows to the English fleet," Kuhl said.

"But ultimately, they would have been defeated and most of the German sailors killed."

By Hannah Butler

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11/10/2015 by Mysterious Heartland1 Comment



DSC01310 (2)

Detroit, Michigan has always fascinated us. A once-prosperous Midwestern city, Detroit experienced social and economic collapse on an unprecedented scale. While this itself has spawned legends and ghost stories, the Motor City has a variety of lore dating back to the days of the American Indians. In 2013, Addovolt Productions, a Chicago-based independent film production company led by writer-director Derek Quint, produced a short documentary on the legends and ghost stories of Motown called *The Spirits of Detroit*.

The Spirits of Detroit is filmed in docudrama-style. A narrator tells the history and ghost stories, while actors and actresses portray the narrated events. The music is creepy and adds to the overall atmosphere of the short film. The narrator tells 5-6 legends from

different periods of Detroit's history. You can watch the entire documentary on YouTube. It is narrated by Chris Chavez and features original music compositions by Chad Nini.

"For a long time, I had wanted to do a project centered around Detroit and, on the other hand, I also wanted to do something along the lines of those paranormal documentaries that I enjoy watching on TV," said Quint, "so I decided to do a short paranormal documentary about Detroit. My aim was to make something fun, informative, and easy to watch, like an old episode of 'Unsolved Mysteries'. I grew up hearing and reading about Detroit ghosts and urban myths. You can find all kinds of weird stories about this area."

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1. joanne smith says:
11/10/2015 at 10:29 am

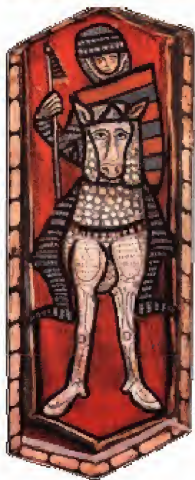
Very interesting short documentary. If I ever get to travel America, which is my dream, Detroit is one place I would definitely visit for a ghost hunt!!

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Diego

They were the five hardest years of my life, battles against the Moors have nearly cost me my life on several occasions. I have walked hundreds of miles on dusty roads, I suffered hunger and thirst and have scars in almost every part of my body. But nothing matters to me, and if I had to repeat a thousand times would without hesitation ... because for it, sacrifice is just the destination that brings me closer to her sweet lips.



My name is Diego de Marcilla, and today, I go back to my city, Teruel, with the fame and fortune that gave me all the battles I fought and conquered from the Moors. In my saddlebags I bring a dowry to marry me with Isabel, the only love of my life, who promised wait for five years while collecting enough fortune asked his father to ask for her hand.

As I climb the hill to the Andaquilla, church Wedding bells. I think it's not bad way into Teruel, because in a few days, those bells will ring again over our heads as we declare eternal love.

Isabel

I curse the day I made that promise. Poor Diego, my fault started the fight where an edge probably halved his heart. Now I think I should not give hopes, thereby, despite my misery, right now still be alive. My father always wanted the best for me and my future and when he told Diego that had insufficient dowry to get my hand, the two we had to comply.

But we were very young and lacking in reason, after my promise that she would wait for five years, set off an impossible undertaking and which have cost him his life. Today is the deadline, but the total absence of hearing from you lost me long ago the hope of his return. As a woman of honor, I must respect my father and I must abide by their wishes and marry that man, that is sure to take care of me and be a good husband. May God forgive me and Diego, but the pressure of my father has been great over the years and one day, I, Isabel de Segura, incumpliré my promise.

Diego and Isabel

The joy of Diego becomes total sadness and desolation upon learning that he has heard the bells on entering Teruel, were the wedding of his beloved Elizabeth. You feel a strange mixture of feelings inside, where sorrow and rage mixed in equal parts. Needs to hear from the lips of Isabel why, maybe he forgot it, perhaps all that suffered during these years to no avail or, conversely, there is still an opportunity. You can not expect to know the answer, and



when night falls, goes decided was the new home of the newlyweds.

Isabel's husband sleeps on the bed exhausted after a long day of celebrations, but she did not get to sleep thinking that there is no turning back when you feel someone grab his hand. Diego has entered quietly and looks kneeling beside the bed. Both are silent for a few minutes watching their faces in the soft moonlight that filtered through the large window. A tear runs the white cheek Isabel and

when you have to explain to Diego what happened, she puts his fingers trembling lips of her and asks for a kiss as a sign of love, one sincere kiss your life can continue some sense. Isabel denied kiss Diego invoking honesty owed to her new husband and father, and her, because despite wanting that kiss with all his soul, fear of the consequences is much higher.

Diego asks for the second time this kiss as a sign of love and Elizabeth denies it again and after this second denial, Diego falls dead on her lap.



Between sobs of pure sorrow and pain, Isabel tells her husband what happened. This, after calm, take the body of Diego and the shadows under the porticoes, carried him to the door of the house of their fathers.

The next day, the church bells rang again, this time to announce Teruel death of Don Diego de Marcilla.

The coffin Diego is on the altar of the church, where family and friends watch in silence the body, awaiting the start of the funeral.

The murmur of prayers is broken only by the creaking of the door, where it enters a woman with her face veiled with certainty walking

down the aisle. Once there, he discovers his face and leans toward the Diego to kiss her lips silently. After the kiss, is lying on his chest.

The funeral is about to start and some women come forward to tell this woman who must depart from the coffin. But this woman does not respond, that woman is Isabel lying dead on the body of Diego.

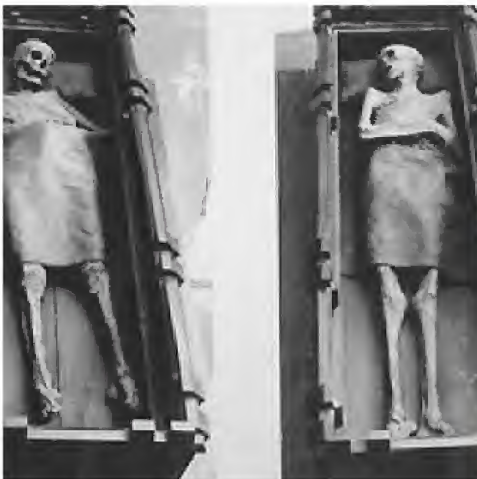
The novel husband of Isabel, there would relate it to all present the story that Elizabeth herself had told him sobbing last night. And no one doubted that the two had died of love, largest and pure love that had never known locally and in honor of the two lovers decided to bury together so they could spend the rest of eternity in mutual company.

Lovers of Teruel



These facts reported here without excessive detail, occurred in 1217 in the city of Teruel giving rise to the legend of lovers. Diego (Juan Martínez de Marcilla as historical documents) and Isabel de Segura, neighbors since childhood and both of noble families, loved each other forever. Diego was the second son of the

family, thus, the firstborn was the designated heir. When ordering Diego's hand D. Pedro Isabel de Segura, on her father, who refused relying on the issue of dowry, it would not be Diego heir to the fortune of her father. Diego decided to leave for battles against the Moors to accumulate enough to marry Isabel, after promising him she would wait for five years fortune. From this point, the story ends as you may have read.



Planeta Excentrico

Despite being a legend, the facts are fairly well documented with different affidavits of the time after several exhumation of bodies, that after almost 800 years, are mummified with the same gestures with which they were buried. The coffins Lovers of Teruel is a point must for everyone who passes by so peculiar and beautiful city. A few years ago, the bodies were subjected to different chronological evidence that dated back to the years in which the facts, to silence the mouths of a few skeptics who always thought this story was nothing more than an old wives tale. There are people for and people against, but I find no reason to try to throw soil so pretty as this legend.

What do you think about this?

In early February, Teruel back in time to relive the story of lovers. On the official website of "The Marriage of Isabel de Segura", you can find all the information on these festivals peculiar. There are also many novels and based on this mythical history books.

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An optical illusion, an unknown device or something more? Questions of this kind have begun to emerge in Brazil after residents of the coast of **Praia da Vila** in **Imbituba, Brazil**, claimed to have seen, on Saturday August 4, nothing less than an island and then seeing it disappear.



One witness, **Hemília Camilla Rucinski**, could take this picture, leaving a record of this strange fact.

Camilla told the strange event in this way the newspaper **Diario do Sul**:

"My father went to lunch at a restaurant facing the beach and when the waiter was asked how

long he had been living in Imbituba. He said that 30 years. Then the waiter asked if he had seen 'the island', and He pointed to the sea. My father was surprised because he had never seen, and the waiter said it was covered by the sea and appeared at low tide. My father said he could not be, because it was too large and, if it was covered by the high tide, the sea could advance on the beach".

¿Project Blue Beam?

This case, however extraordinary it may seem, is not unique, an extraordinary event that was global knowledge and related to the project or **Blue Ray Blue Beam Project**, consisting of a secret project that seeks to create optical illusions through projections **Holographic** to achieve a certain manipulative effect in the population occurred in China.

In this opportunity an entire city full of buildings, trees and mountains draft within a horizon in which there was nothing. This puzzled the Chinese people and the world, while reached even record this strange fact.

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- 12 November 2015
- From the section England

Just days after a lorry caused severe delays by shedding 24 tonnes of lard across a motorway slip road, BBC News takes a look at the strangest items spilled on England's roads.

Baked beans, M11, Essex



A passer-by stuck in traffic snapped a picture of the bean spillage

Image copyright Juliet Kinsman

Image caption

Thousands of tins of beans were strewn across three lanes of the M11 in Essex in 2012 after a lorry swerved to avoid a car and smashed into the central reservation.

No-one was hurt in the accident near Epping, but a mini-digger had to be called in

to scoop up the cans of pulses and clear the road.

The southbound carriageway between junctions six and seven was closed for around three hours.

Yeast extract, M1, South Yorkshire



A spillage of yeast extract caused a jam on the M1

Image copyright Getty Images
Image caption

The M1 ground to a halt in the winter of 2011 when 20 tonnes of yeast extract oozed across the carriageway near Sheffield.

Specialist teams were dispatched to stop the sticky black mess spreading in a clean-up operation that took 12 hours.

The Environment Agency was called in to help over fears the substance could pollute local waterways and suffocate fish.

Lager cans, M6, Coventry

Image caption

Hundreds of cans of lager rolled across the M6 at Coventry in 2011 after a van overturned and shed its load.

The link road between the M69 southbound and the M6 northbound was closed for almost four hours while Highways England picked up every single tin of beer by hand.

Salmon, M62, East Yorkshire



The salmon spillage on the M62 was a 'complicated clean-up'

Image caption

Ten tonnes of salmon had to be picked up by hand in the dead of night after an HGV overturned near Goole in 2013.

The frozen fish was strewn across both the east and westbound carriageways and the 44 tonne lorry was blocking several lanes.

Highways England worked into the early hours to get the road reopened in time for rush-hour traffic in what they described as a "complicated" clean-up mission.

Chickens, M62, Manchester



Around 1,000 chickens were killed in the M62 smash

Image copyright Ian C Patterson

Image caption

Hundreds of chickens perished on the M62 in Greater Manchester last year after a lorry smashed into a safety barrier.

The vehicle was carrying 6,800 chickens when it crashed and about 1,500 died

from the impact or were killed by passing traffic.

Some 2,000 birds escaped and had to be recaptured by rescuers scouring nearby fields in the dark.

Animal blood and human sewage

Nasty substances spilled on our roads pose quite the challenge for agencies cleaning them up.

It took almost four hours for specialist teams to mop up animal blood from the eastbound carriageway of the A50 at Stoke-on-Trent in 2011 after the tanker carrying the liquid sprang a leak.

Similarly, in 2009, the Environment Agency had to be drafted in to deal with the aftermath of an HGV crash which saw raw human sewage seep across the A3 near Guildford.

It took five hours for the hazardous material to be removed.

Acid, M11, Essex



Image copyright Essex Fire and Rescue
Image caption

An acid spill closed the M11 near Stansted Airport for more than 12 hours last year after a lorry overturned, pouring melamine formaldehyde resin and phosphoric acid across several lanes.

Motorists trying to get to the airport had to be diverted following the spillage

More than 325 metres of carriageway had to be cleared and teams scrambled to clean up the mess before the

substance solidified on the road.

Powdered cement, M6, Lancashire



It took 18 hours to clear the road of powdered cement

Image copyright North West
Motorway Police
Image caption

Highways England was faced with a similar challenge just a couple of weeks later when powdered cement was spilled across the M6 on the hottest day of the year.

Motorists were left stranded between junctions 34 and 35 following a smash between

two lorries and a car, which saw several hundred gallons of diesel from one of the vehicles mix with the powder, causing it to set.

It took 18 hours to clear and resurface the road.

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Sarcastic comments boost creativity, a study finds

By Francesca Gino | November 17, 2015

Instead of avoiding sarcasm completely in the office, the research suggests sarcasm, used with care and in moderation, can be effectively used and trigger some creative sparks.

"Sarcasm is the lowest form of wit but the highest form of intelligence," wrote that connoisseur of wit, Oscar Wilde. Whether sarcasm is a sign of intelligence or not, communication experts and marriage counselors alike typically advise us to stay away from this particular form of expression. The reason is simple: sarcasm expresses the poisonous sting of contempt, hurting others and harming relationships. As a form of communication, sarcasm takes on the debt of conflict.

And yet, our research suggests, there may also be some unexpected benefits from sarcasm: greater creativity. The use of sarcasm, in fact, promotes creativity for those on both the giving and receiving end of sarcastic exchanges. Instead of avoiding sarcasm completely in the office, the research suggests sarcasm, used with care and in moderation, can be effectively used and trigger some creative sparks.

Sarcasm involves constructing or exposing contradictions between intended meanings. The most common form of verbal irony, sarcasm is often used to humorously convey thinly veiled disapproval or scorn. "Pat, don't work so hard!", a boss might say upon catching his assistant surfing the Internet. Early research on sarcasm explored how people interpret statements and found that, as expected, sarcasm makes a statement sound more critical. In one laboratory study, participants read scenarios in which, for instance, (1) one person did something that could be viewed negatively, such as smoking, and (2) a second person commented on the behavior to the first person, either literally ("I see you don't have a healthy concern for your lungs") or sarcastically ("I see you have a healthy concern for your lungs"). Participants rated sarcasm to be more condemning than literal statements. In a similar study, participants were encouraged to empathize either with a person behaving in a way that could be construed as negative or with a second person commenting on the first person's behavior. Both perspectives prompted participants to rate sarcastic comments by the second person as more impolite relative to literal comments.

Other research has show that sarcasm can be easily misinterpreted, particularly when communicated electronically. In one study, 30 pairs of university students were given a list of statements to communicate, half of which were sarcastic and half of which were serious. Some students communicated their messages via e-mail and others via voice recordings. Participants who received the voice messages accurately gleaned the sarcasm (or lack thereof) 73 percent of the time, but those who received the statements via e-mail did so only 56 percent of the time, hardly better than chance. By comparison, the e-mailers had anticipated that 78 percent of participants would pick up on the sarcasm inherent in their sarcastic statements. That is, they badly overestimated their ability to communicate the tenor of their sarcastic statements via e-mail. What's more, the recipients of the sarcastic e-mails

were also decidedly overconfident. They guessed they would correctly interpret the tone of the e-mails they received about 90 percent of the time. They were considerably less overconfident about their ability to interpret voice messages.

In recent research, my colleagues and I discovered an upside to this otherwise gloomy picture of sarcasm. In one study, we assigned some participants to engage in either simulated sarcastic, sincere, or neutral dialogues by choosing from pre-written responses on a sheet of paper. Others were recipients of these different types of messages from others. Immediately after participants engaged in these “conversations,” we presented them with tasks testing their creativity. Not surprisingly, the participants exposed to sarcasm reported more interpersonal conflict than those in other groups. More interestingly, those who engaged in a sarcastic conversation fared better on creativity tasks. The processes involved in initiating and delivering a sarcastic comment improved the creativity and cognitive functioning of both the commenter and the recipient. This creativity effect only emerged when recipients picked up on the sarcasm behind the expresser’s message rather than taking mean comments at face value.

Why might sarcasm enhance creativity? Because the brain must think creatively to understand or convey a sarcastic comment, sarcasm may lead to clearer and more creative thinking. To either create or understand sarcasm, tone must overcome the contradiction between the literal and actual meanings of the sarcastic expressions. This is a process that activates, and is facilitated by, abstraction, which in turn promotes creative thinking. Consider the following example, which comes from a conversation one of my co-authors on the research (Adam Galinsky, of Columbia) had a few weeks before getting married. His fiancée woke him up as he was soundly asleep at night to tell him about some new ideas she has for their upcoming wedding next month –many of which were quite expensive. Adam responded with some ideas of his own: “Why don’t we get Paul McCartney to sing, Barack Obama to give a benediction and Amy Schumer to entertain people.” His comment required his fiancée to recognize that there is a distinction between the surface level meaning of the sentence (actually signing up these people to perform) and the meaning that was intended.

This is not the first set of studies showing that creativity can be boosted by things that would commonly be considered creativity killers. In one series of studies, for example, researchers found that moderate noise can be an untapped source of creativity, providing a welcome distraction that helps the brain make disparate associations. In addition, alcohol is believed to aid creativity, up to a point, by reducing focus and relaxing the mind.

Sarcasm can be interpreted negatively, and thus cause relationship costs. So, how do we harness its creative benefits without creating the type of conflict that can damage a relationship? It comes down to trust. Our studies show that, given the same content and tone, sarcasm expressed toward or received from someone we trust is less conflict provoking than sarcasm expressed toward or received from someone we distrust. Of course, if we were to vary the tone and content, it would make a difference too – given an extremely harsh tone and critical content, even trust might not be enough.

Given the risks and benefits of sarcasm, your best bet is to keep salty remarks limited to

conversations with those you know well, lest you offend others—even as you potentially help them think more creatively.

Comments

KabouterWesley November 18, 2015, 10:05 AM

Thank you so much for this brilliant analysis

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Good News: Thousands Resign From Mormon Church

November 15, 2015

patheos.com

by Michael Stone 4 Comments

Protesting a cruel new policy towards the children of gays and lesbians, thousands of Mormons resign from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.

A controversial new policy that stigmatizes and demeans not only gays and lesbians but the children of gays and lesbians by labeling same-sex couples as apostates and prohibiting children of same-sex relationships from being baptized has motivated thousands to leave the Mormon Church this weekend in a historic mass resignation.

According to reports, over 2,500 people crowded into a Salt lake City park to take part in the mass resignation, with over 1,500 letters of resignation filed in person, and another 2,000 filed through mail.

In addition, thousands of more letters of resignation are expected from good people across the country who can no longer tolerate or support the anti-gay bigotry of the Mormon Church.

Last week secret revisions to the handbook for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints was leaked to the public, sparking a furious backlash and ultimately resulting in the mass resignations.

The revisions called for those in gay unions to be treated as apostates and banned baptisms and other ceremonies for the children of gays and lesbians until they are 18 years old.

In addition, the new policy states that if the children of couples in same-sex marriages want to become full-fledged members of the faith, they have to disavow their parents' relationship and move out of the home.

The new policy is truly monstrous, designed to shame gays and lesbians, and the families of gays and lesbians, ultimately driving a wedge between family members, destroying relationships and ruining lives.

Particularly odious is the demand that children of gays and lesbians must disavow their parents relationship before being allowed into the church. Such a demand is truly despicable.

Historically, the Mormon church has always been a bigoted, narrow minded, and morally corrupt institution. Indeed, up until 1978, the church taught that black people were spiritually and morally inferior beings, and barred men of African descent from the clergy.

Bottom line: This is good news. We should all celebrate when good people find the strength to abandon institutions that support and promote bigotry and hatred in the name of religious superstition.

(Portions of this article were previously published here.)



LDS Temple – Salt
Lake City (Image via
Facebook)

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Oct 31, 2011 12:13 PM ET // by Tim Wall



¡Ay, caramba! A three-eyed fish was caught in a reservoir in Argentina, reported Cadena 3, an Argentine news service.

The fishing hole where the mutant fish was caught may be more of a fission hole. The reservoir, named "Chorro de Agua Caliente," receives water from a nuclear plant in the province of Córdoba.

"Simpsons" fans will remember the same thing happened in Springfield. Bart caught Blinky, a three-eyed fish, in the pond fed by Monty Burn's nuclear power plant in the episode "Two Cars in Every Garage and Three Eyes on Every Fish," from the second season of the hit series.

SCIENCE CHANNEL VIDEO: Unlikely Predator and a Third Eye Lizard



Five Argentine fishermen's "woo-hoos" turned to "d'ohs" when the wolf fish (*Hoplias malabaricus*) they pulled into their boat looked back at them with three eyes.

"Because it was night, we didn't realize it in the moment," Julián Zmutt told Cadena 3.

After checking the fish out by lantern light, one of the fishermen noted the bizarre mutation.

"We've fished here for many years, and this is the first time this has happened," Zmutt said.

Through no official examinations have been completed, the fishermen think the mutant's proximity to the nuclear plant is a little fishy.

"You start to talk about the nuclear center. You can't let go of the worry," said Zmutt.

BIG PIC: Mr. Burns Look-Alike Among Amphibian Discoveries

Like Burns in the "Simpsons" episode, the fishermen don't have the stomach for three-eyed fish. They plan to submit it for testing, then have it preserved.

IMAGES:

Close-up of the three-eyed wolf fish caught in Argentina (Credit: Cadena 3).

The three-eyed wolf fish caught in Argentina (Credit: Cadena 3).

Tags Rivers Earth Weird News Water Fish lakes Nuclear Accidents Nuclear Science nuclear Pollution Animal Anatomy Argentina

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Posted on December 10, 2011 by nzumel

I love that metaphor.

This is one of the superstitions that W. H. Millington and Berton Maxfield reported from informants in the Visayas, Philippines, back in 1906. Here are some other fun ones:

If you bite your lip, someone is talking about you (negatively).

This one, I knew. My dad says it all the time — his mother is Visayan.

Lunar eclipses are caused by a large snake or dragon-like creature called a bakunáwa, which holds the moon in its mouth.

Actually, the original paper doesn't define what a bakunáwa actually is. I found the definition in this Visayan-English dictionary. No word on who eats the sun during solar eclipses.

To play with a cat will cause a storm.

I guess this follows from thunder being a cat's growling.

Falling stars are the souls of drunkards. At night they return to earth, singing: "Do not drink! Do not drink!" Each day they try to climb back into heaven, but each night fall back again.

I really, really like this image. I don't even know why.

The paper is Philippine (Visayan) Superstitions by W. H. Millington and Berton L. Maxfield, *The Journal of American Folklore*, Vol. 19, No. 74 (Jul. – Sep., 1906), available free to the public from JSTOR.

The paper also collects some folklore about *tamawos*, *duendes*, and *aswangs*.

A trifle paternalistic, as is much of the folklore literature from that period, but a fun read all the same.

This entry was posted in Folklore, Superstition and tagged folklore, JSTOR, Philippines, superstitions, Visayan. Bookmark the permalink.

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Tiberius Caesar, who preferred drunken orgies over ruling the Roman Empire

lordsofthedrinks.com

February 3, 2015 by Micky Bumbar (Lords of the Drinks)



A statue of emperor Tiberius. It was found in the Italian town Priverno and can currently be seen in the Vatican Museum.

It's kind of hard to pick a prominent person from the days of the Roman Empire who wasn't a fan of drunken orgies. For these bacchanalia were an important part of everyday life. Still there are people like Julius Caesar who were known for their moderation, and there were some who were constantly the talk of the town because of their drunken escapades and extravagant behaviour. Emperor Tiberius, who ruled the Roman Empire for 23 years against his will, set the standard for the drunkest years Rome had ever seen.

Tiberius was born in the year 42 BC under the name Tiberius Claudius Nero and died 79 years later as Tiberius Augustus Caesar. Roman names in the higher families changed all the time because of re-marriage, adoption or change of status. We therefore try to use as few as possible in this article to avoid confusion. The only thing to remember here is that Tiberius was a general who was that

successful in his military missions that emperor Augustus adopted him as a son. Later Tiberius married his own stepsister Julia and also became the emperor's son-in-law. Just another day at the office in ancient Rome.

However Tiberius seemed quite different from the power hungry notables at the imperial court. He became a national hero with victories in Pannonia, Dalmatia, Raetia and Germania, where he discovered the source of the Danube river, but he showed no interest in political power. Basically he preferred to party without the fear of being murdered all the time. Tiberius was a simple guy with simple needs, which meant plenty of wine and different sex partners.

Stepfather Augustus saw his natural heir in the fighting machine, but Tiberius surprisingly retired in 6 BC and moved to the Greek island Rhodes. Also to get away from his wife Julia who wasn't a big fan of him seeing other women. Tiberius partied for ten years at Rhodes but when Augustus lost both his grandsons within 2 years the former general was called back to Rome to face his fate. For some years he was granted the same powers as the emperor and after the death of Augustus in 14 AD Tiberius was mentioned as the sole surviving heir in his will.

From the start of his reign Tiberius showed no interest at all for the job. He didn't even want full power and suggested to the Senate he could rule just part of the state. In the end Tiberius couldn't escape full responsibility, but Rome's most powerful man refused a crown, laurels or fancy titles. He also didn't feel like getting involved in state business

and practically let the Senate rule the empire by itself, while the new emperor honored the



Tiberius portrait on a Roman coin.

winegod Bacchus. Twice Tiberius tried to share some of his duties with others. In 18 AD Tiberius gave the successful general Germanicus authority over the Eastern part of the Roman Empire and in 22 AD he shared the tribunician authority with his only son Drusus. Both however died within a year after being appointed.

In 26 AD Tiberius took it a step further and left Rome to live on the island Capri. While he turned that into a party island he basically left the Praetorian Prefect Sejanus in charge. Until the puppet tried to overthrow his master and Tiberius had Sejanus executed in 31 AD. If we may believe the Roman sources the emperor spent the last years of his life drinking and satisfying his perverted

fantasies. While his will paved the way for a lot more chaos in Rome. If you ever considered it to be fun to write your will drunk, pay attention...

Tiberius stated that his nephew and adopted son Caligula should rule the empire together with his grandson Tiberius Gemellus. Practically the first act of Caligula was to have Tiberius Gemellus killed and seize absolute power. He then officially became the craziest Roman emperor in history, while totally proving his reputation as a sadist. Caligula had people killed and tortured for his own sick amusement, lost a solid 2.7 billion sesterces (around 810 million euros these days) of the family fortune and on top of all appointed his favorite horse as a member of the Senate.

By that time Tiberius wasn't considered a national hero anymore. There was a tradition that Roman emperors could be declared a God. Augustus for example got his divine honors after he died. But when Tiberius died people were revolting in the streets of Rome when some just mentioned this treatment. In the end the Senate decided Tiberius was not divine at all and he got a sober funeral. So he wasn't the best emperor Rome had ever known, he did initiate the drunkest years the city had ever seen as the next 4 emperors and their entourages partied their asses off. With that he ended a tradition of centuries in Greek-Roman culture of moderate drinking. It's not without reason Tiberius even had a cocktail named after him. And therefor we say: *ave Caesar, morituri te salutant*, let's get smashed!

Micky Bumbar

More drinkers that left their mark on the world's history

This entry was posted in Historical Drunkards and tagged adopted son of Augustus, adoption, adultery, alcohol, ancient history, Ancient Rome, Augustus, bacchanalia, booze, Caesar, Caligula, Capri, cheating, cocktail, conquest of Dalmatia, conquest of Germania, crazy, crazy emperor, Danube, discovery of the Danube source, drins, drunen, drunen orgies, drunk, drunken orgies, Drusus, emperor Tiberius, General Tiberius, Germanicus, Greece, history, history of drining alcohol, History of the Romans, Horse as Senator, horse in the Senate, Italian, Italian history, Italy, Julia the Elderly, Julius Caesar, marriage, military victories, murder, orgies, perverted, Rhodes, Roman emperor, Roman Empire, Roman general, Roman

history, Roman Senate, Roman times, Rome, second emperor of Rome, Sejanus, sex, sex orgies, The God Augustus, the Romans, The Senate, Tiberius Augustus Caesar, Tiberius Caesar, Tiberius Claudius Nero, Tiberius cocktail, Tiberius Gemellus, torture, travel, victories of Tiberius, war, wine. Bookmark the permalink.

33 thoughts on “Tiberius Caesar, who preferred drunken orgies over ruling the Roman Empire”



1. PorterGirl says:
February 3, 2015 at 5:26 pm

Absolutely marvellous. I studied the classics at school and although the full details of naughtiness were somewhat skirted over, I always knew that Bacchus was the god for me. And also that saint, who likes drinking and smoking. He is awesome too.



• lordsofthedrinks says:
February 3, 2015 at 5:31 pm

Hahaha you mean San Simon? Yes, the true spirit of Bacchus lives on in Guatemala! :D



■ PorterGirl says:
February 3, 2015 at 6:58 pm

That's the guy! San Simon. Legend.



■ lordsofthedrinks says:
February 3, 2015 at 7:02 pm

Absolutely! :D



2. Steph says:
February 3, 2015 at 6:41 pm

ohmygosh, i am kinda afraid to travel to rome anymore. tell me they are nice and moderate people now?! :)



• lordsofthedrinks says:
February 3, 2015 at 6:47 pm

Hahaha indeed in general I'm not impressed by the overall drinking abilities of the Italians. However most that I met were kind people with a good sense of humor.
Cheers,
Micky



3. poetrybyimpulse says:
February 3, 2015 at 7:53 pm

good times huh! :P :) oh to be a king! perhaps. always a crazy ending though! :) still... :)



• lordsofthedrinks says:
February 3, 2015 at 8:16 pm

Haha well most emperors had a shittier way to go than Tiberius. True survivor this guy.

Cheers,
Micky



■ poetrybyimpulse says:
February 3, 2015 at 10:57 pm

i sometimes wonder if its best to play hard and die young or be boring and love young. i suppose if you've got the taste or desire for power that's a whole different story.



■ lordsofthedrinks says:
February 3, 2015 at 11:13 pm

Well for me that's an easy one. Not interested in power or money. Love to get everything out of life as long as I'm still relatively young. Don't mind if an early grave is the price to pay.



■ poetrybyimpulse says:
February 4, 2015 at 12:24 am

interesting view point. so you're more the reckless sort do you think? i kinda wish i were in a way. im too curious! see you at your funeral first then i guess! :P :)



■ lordsofthedrinks says:
February 4, 2015 at 12:45 am

Haha sure.... Drinks will be on me at that fine occasion! ;)



■ poetrybyimpulse says:
February 4, 2015 at 1:38 pm

:) :) heehee



4. Conrad (The Wine Wankers) says:
February 3, 2015 at 9:09 pm

Ahh, the good 'ole days!



• lordsofthedrinks says:
February 3, 2015 at 9:13 pm

Hahaha indeed. Although I don't believe some royalty these days is doing anything different. The European royal families have no political power but they get shitloads of money to.... Well, I know what I would do!

Cheers,
Micky



■ Conrad (The Wine Wankers) says:
February 3, 2015 at 9:15 pm

Yep, for sure!



5. draculvanhelsing says:
February 4, 2015 at 12:04 am

Very well written.

Yes, I guess making a bad judgement in one's will (such as naming Caligula your heir) is a sure fire way of losing divine honours at one's funeral.

Perhaps that's what started the long- standing tradition that continues today of having the will read after the funeral ceremony is over.



• lordsofthedrinks says:
February 4, 2015 at 12:22 am

Well when Augustus named Tiberius as his heir it was also official after they read the will after his death. But in that case it was pretty clear upfront too. With an emperor hiding in Capri who didn't showed any interest in politics I can see how this outcome was more surprising for many.



6. mrheslop says:
February 4, 2015 at 2:13 am

This article almost makes me regret my monk-like austerity! Thank you for a fabulous and enlightening read. x



• lordsofthedrinks says:
February 4, 2015 at 2:16 am

You are most welcome. Thanks a lot for the kind words.
Cheers,
Micky



7. Slayer says:
February 4, 2015 at 8:12 am

Ha ha! Love it! Well-researched and well-written.

However, regarding Caligula:

"He then officially became the craziest Roman emperor in history . . ."

I beg kindly to differ. Did my undergraduate dissertation on Commodus. He was not normal.



• lordsofthedrinks says:
February 4, 2015 at 10:11 am

Oh he most definitely wasn't. Also Nero scored high in this chart of course. Still Caligula topped them all.

For example he had all the heads removed off statues like Jupiter and Apollo and replaced them with his own looks.

He also wanted to leave Rome for Alexandria in Egypt and become a 'real God', whatever that means.

The Praetorian guard killed him within 3 years I believe cause they just couldn't bare to work for this nutjob anymore.

Cheers,
Micky



8. Slayer says:
February 4, 2015 at 10:15 am

I would like to do a Commodus post in your honour. Would that be OK?

I want you to know just how sick – well, awesome – he was.



• lordsofthedrinks says:
February 4, 2015 at 10:50 am

Haha... I feel honored sir. Just link me up when you're done. I'll be glad to read it!



9. Slayer says:
February 4, 2015 at 10:55 am

On it. Need to go find a lion hat first. He thought he was Hercules. "Course" he did!

LikeLiked by 1 person



• lordsofthedrinks says:
February 4, 2015 at 11:10 am

Aren't we all a bit Hercules some times? ;)



■ Slayer says:
February 4, 2015 at 11:55 am

We are. Save Kevin Sorbo.



10. productionslevin says:
February 4, 2015 at 11:06 am

Excellent article. Thanks for making learn a bit more of Roman history



• lordsofthedrinks says:
February 4, 2015 at 11:13 am

You are most welcome. Thanks a lot for the compliment!
Cheers,
Micky



■ productionslevin says:
February 4, 2015 at 11:16 am

I have a great admiration of those drunken emperors. They in a way were pioneers to the development of a wine culture in Europe



■ lordsofthedrinks says:
February 4, 2015 at 12:41 pm

Well depends how you look at it. Georgians ([link](#)) and Armenians for example were drinking wines thousands of years before Rome was even founded.

Also the Greeks and Macedonians did and spread the art of winemaking all over the Mediterranean area.

But no doubt the Roman conquest of Western Europe helped a lot. So if we are talking about the Northern regions we can speak of pioneers indeed.

Cheers,
Micky

<http://lordsofthedrinks.com/2013/04/08/georgia-the-cradle-of-wines/>

11. Pingback: Rome panics after 'Feyenoord invasion' and reacts with violence and prohibition | Lords of the Drinks

12. Pingback: Roman Emperor Nero, the ultimate drunken megalomaniac | Lords of the Drinks



The tomb which always appears with fresh flowers

Dartmoor is a region located in the center of the county of Devon , England. His landscapes are beautiful national park of 953 km² which inspired many legends, some of them as alive as the mystery surrounding the tomb of Mary Jay .

Dartmoor is well known for being the setting of the novel by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle , "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1902), perhaps the most famous of all featuring Sherlock Holmes , and also the

mystery of the tomb of Mary Jay .



In late 1700, a newborn baby girl was abandoned at the gates of " La Casa de Pobres "of Newton Abbot . As usual he gave a common name began with the letter that then played, in this case the "J".

Looking for a name for the name "Jay" is pronounced like the Jack in English. And as in the slang of the time too so they were called prostitutes was added the name of Mary .



Mary Jay was in the

Wolborough home until adolescence, which looked after the younger children. Later she was

sent to the farm Canna outside Manaton. There I entered apprentice, which meant working both at home and in the field. A hard life with very long days and heavy tasks. A place where a hot meal and warm clothes were a luxury.



Soon the beautiful Mary Jay Jay or Kitty as it is also known, began to receive the attention of the son of a farmer. This became pregnant and therefore suffered rejection of the family. Repudiated threw farm with a reputation for prostitute. Another version of the legend says that she was raped.



She knew that this false rumor, could never find

employment in the region. Neither wanted to return to Wolborough by the sheer embarrassment of being pregnant. Jay beset took a tragic final decision, hanging himself in one of the nearby barns.



His body as was the custom could not rest in consecrated ground. Even after his death the three local parishes of Widescombe-in-the-Moor, North Bovey and Manaton bury rejected as it was suicide.

Therefore his remains rest in a crossroads, a tomb is visited in the magical land of Dartmoor. Legend has it that this unique tomb is always fresh flowers in any season and no one leaves. It is also said that the tomb is visited often by "The Pixies" little beings, slender fairies who live in the nearby woods. Some motorists spent the night near the burial say they have seen even the figure of the farmer's son grieving for the



soul of J.



Today

Dartmoor is under the supervision of the National Park Authority Dartmoor (Dartmoor National Park Authority). Certain areas of Dartmoor have been used as military training camp for over 200 years. In the rest of the park entrance to the public is allowed. It is a popular tourist destination in England, where people visit the tomb always covered with flowers that supposedly nobody leaves.

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11/09/2015 by Michael Kleen1 Comment

A murder is always traumatic, leaving behind physical and emotional scars that remain in the community for years. Every once in a while, however, a homicide leaves behind psychic scars, and ghost stories grow up around the murder scene. These stories help preserve popular memory of these traumatic events for generations. Mysterious Heartland has browsed dozens of these tales (separating fact from fiction) to bring you this list of the top 10 most haunted murder scenes in Illinois.

10. Coliseum Ballroom Antique Mall

Benld, Illinois



Coliseum_Ballroom

This former large, red brick building was once the most famous ballroom and music venue in central Illinois. It was originally built in 1924 as a front for local bootleggers who ran liquor through the area. Its owner, Dominic Tarro, was arrested for bootlegging in 1930. Shortly after he posted bail, his body was found in the Sangamon River. He had been tied up with wire and shot in the back of the head. His wife, and later his daughter, took over ownership and led the establishment through its glory days. Sadly, after her death, it declined. Subsequent owners reported seeing figures from the 1920s and '30s. The ghost of a young woman with dark hair was also seen, and visitors felt unexplainable cold spots. On July 30, 2011, the building was completely destroyed in a fire while the band Shadow of Doubt was performing on stage. Only an empty lot exists there today.

9. Bloody Gulch Road

Dixon, Illinois

Bloody Gulch Road is named after a brutal murder that took place in the late 1800s. Popular memory relates that a young man named Moss beat a Bible salesman named Teil to death with a baseball bat in a field near Pump Factory Road. He buried the salesman's body in a drainage ditch that ran under a nearby road, and it was discovered after rain washed some of the soil away, exposing the victim's hand. The road over this ditch became known as Bloody Gulch. According to legend, a bloody hand can be seen there on dark and stormy nights. Nearby, an abandoned house is also thought to be haunted by the ghost of a murdered girl, and at least one homeowner along Bloody Gulch Road has reported strange activity in his residence.

8. Lakey's Creek

McLeansboro, Illinois



HauntedBridge6

The headless horseman of Lakey's Creek is quite possibly one of the oldest ghost stories in Illinois. Passed down as an oral tradition until John W. Allen put the story on paper in 1963, the mysterious man named Lakey, as well as his untimely end, has been immortalized in the folklore of Southern Illinois. Long before a concrete bridge spanned the shallow creek 1.5 miles east of McLeansboro, a frontiersman named Lakey attempted to erect his log cabin near a ford along the wagon trail to Mt. Vernon. One morning, a lone traveler stumbled upon Lakey's body. Lakey's head had been severed by his own axe, which was left at the scene. According to legend, his murderer was never found. For decades after the murder, travelers reported being chased by a headless horseman that rode out of the woods along Lakey's Creek. "Always the rider, on a large black horse, joined travelers approaching the stream from the east, and always on the downstream side," John Allen wrote. "Each time and just before reaching the center of the creek, the mistlike figure would turn downstream and disappear." The headless horseman has been seen much less frequently in recent years.

7. Airtight Bridge

Coles County, Illinois



HauntedBridge5

Designed by Claude L. James and built in 1914, Airtight Bridge spans the narrow Embarras River in rural Coles County and was long known as a drinking spot and a hangout for rough characters. That all changed on the pleasant Sunday morning of October 19, 1980. According to newspaper reports, two men from rural Urbana spotted the body of a nude woman about 50 feet from the bridge as they drove past. The body was missing its head, hands, and feet. After an extensive murder investigation, no killer was ever located and the identity of the victim remained a mystery for years. Ever since then, an

aura of mystery has surrounded the bridge. Locals say it earned the name "Airtight" because of the unnatural stillness encountered while crossing it, or because early automobiles would stall on the steep hill leading to the bridge if there was more air than gas in their fuel tank. The bridge is currently closed to traffic.

6. James Martin Home

Murphysboro, Illinois

In 1915, this Victorian home on N. 9th Street was the scene of a notorious murder. On a hot July day, a live-in handyman named Joe DeBerry brutally beat Lizzy Martin, wife of local attorney James Martin, to death with a fireplace poker. DeBerry wilted under questioning and confessed to the murder. He was hanged in front of a crowd of over 2,000 people. Many years later, after James Martin joined his wife in death, a fire destroyed the second floor of the home and it was remodeled into a bungalow. Residents began to hear strange sounds, and the house was widely believed to be haunted by the ghosts of Mr. and Mrs. Martin.

Check out these places and more in Michael Kleen's
Haunting Illinois: A Tourist's Guide to the Weird and Wild Places of the Prairie State!

5. Roadhouse Restaurant and Bar

Oregon, Illinois



Mary_Jane_Reed

The Roadhouse Restaurant and Bar has a colorful history. It began as a grocery store, but during Prohibition it was converted into a gambling house and speakeasy. By the 1990s, the building was in serious need of repairs. Its current owner purchased it in 1993 and fixed it up, but soon began to experience some strange activity. He was visited several times by a mysterious young woman who seemed to vanish upon leaving the building. Employees smelled cigar smoke and heard the clink of poker chips in the basement. Most notably, however, the owner became convinced the Roadhouse is supernaturally connected to a double murder. In 1948, Mary Jane Reed and her date Stanley Skridla were found riddled with bullets near a lover's lane along Country Farm Road. The murder is still unsolved. Among other active spirits, Mary Jane's ghost is thought to haunt the Roadhouse—the last place she visited before she died.

4. The Dormitory/ Parkway Inn (Former)

Peoria, Illinois



Shelton_Gang

In the late 1940s, Bernie Shelton, a member of the infamous Shelton gang, had aspirations to become the leading crime boss in Peoria, despite growing pressure from an alliance of St. Louis and Chicago gangsters. Carl and Bernie Shelton, brothers, both had a \$10,000 price on their heads. Carl was murdered in 1947. On July 26, 1948, as Bernie was leaving the Parkway Inn (later it was called the Parkside Inn or Parkside Tavern), he was shot through the chest with a .351 Winchester Rifle by an unidentified man hiding in the woods below St. Joseph's Cemetery. He was mortally wounded and died at the hospital. By 1951, the Shelton Gang had been run out of Illinois. Since Bernie's death, however, owners and patrons of the tavern reported lights turning on and off, sudden chills, items moving, and the feeling of someone breathing on their necks. Additionally, gunshots have been heard and patrons have reported seeing lights above the tavern coming from St. Joseph's Cemetery. The Parkside Tavern is now known as The Dormitory.

3. Hundley Home

Carbondale, Illinois

On December 12, 1928, John Charles Hundley, a former mayor of Carbondale, and his wife Luella were shot to death in their stately home. The killer was never found, although their own stepson was a prime suspect in the crime. Over the years, the building has been remodeled

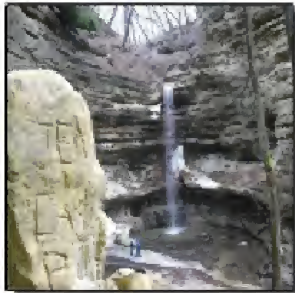


Hundley_Home

to serve many different purposes. The room where John and Luella slept, and where they were killed, became known as "the murder room." In 2008, Dan Jones purchased the building and converted it into a bed and breakfast, despite stories of strange sounds, phantom piano music, and doors that slammed shut on their own. Having heard about the ghostly activity, Barry Klinge of the Discovery Channel's series *Ghost Lab* brought his camera crew to the home in August 2010. They walked away convinced of the validity of the haunting.

2. Starved Rock State Park

Utica, Illinois



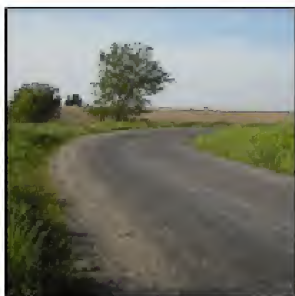
ForestsandParks3

Starved Rock State Park is a natural, scenic woodland park surrounding a large butte overlooking the Illinois River. It contains 18 canyons and 13 miles of trails. American Indians inhabited the site for several thousand years before the French arrived and built a fort at the location. According to legend, Potawatomi Indians trapped a group of Illiniwek on the butte and starved them into submission, giving the rock formation its name. In March 1960, three women were murdered in the park, and their bodies were found in one of the canyons. Eventually, a man named Chester Weger was convicted of

the crime. Some visitors to the park have claimed to hear groans and other disembodied voices amidst the rock formations. Between 1685 and 1702, Henri de Tonti was the most powerful man in central Illinois. He accompanied René-Robert Cavelier, Sieur de La Salle in his exploration of the Illinois country, and La Salle left him to hold Fort Saint Louis when he returned to France. During his time in the Illinois River Valley, he is rumored to have accumulated over \$100,000 in gold, which he buried around Starved Rock. He told a priest about the gold just before he died, but it has never been found despite search attempts in the 1750s by the French and the Potawatomie.

1. "Death Curve"

Cambridge, Illinois



Death_Curve

On the morning of Saturday September 30, 1905, while her husband labored in a neighboring field, Julia Markham took an ax and murdered her seven children, who ranged from five months to eight years old. Julia had carefully planned the massacre and intended to commit suicide afterward, but the knife that she used to cut her throat was too dull. Reeling from the wound, she laid her children out on a bed, side by side, and doused them with coal oil. She lit the oil on fire and the entire house went up in flames. She intended to die with her children, but the heat of the conflagration proved to be too much and

she tried to crawl to safety. Julia expired soon after rescuers arrived and discovered her grisly crime. Decades passed, and the ruin of the Markham's home was plowed over. Their aging, red barn remained, however, and became a hangout for area youths. Even after the barn was

torn down, passersby reported seeing a white specter along the roadside. Locals say that Julia's ghost haunts this curve, tormented by remorse over the murders.



Check out these places and more in Michael Kleen's Haunting Illinois: A Tourist's Guide to the Weird and Wild Places of the Prairie State! Three years in the making, the 3rd edition of Hunting Illinois is your ticket to adventure in your own backyard. This edition contains 60 new listings and 35 new pictures, for a total of 260 haunted or mysterious locations and more than 120 photos and illustrations. Divided into eight distinct regions and listed by county and town or neighborhood, each location features a description, directions, and sources from a wide variety of books, articles, and websites. Haunting Illinois challenges you to get off the couch and start exploring our wonderful State of Illinois. Go here to order!

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by the author or in the public domain.



1. murder, execution and hauntings says:
11/10/2015 at 10:58 am

This sight is amazing and all about my passion.

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Paula had drunk more of the account so that night back home early, he felt pretty bad and very dizzy but as it was relatively early decided that instead of spending your money on a taxi, as he usually did when he returned from the club, take advantage of the Metro was still open to save a few euros.

The journey was long and the few people who were traveling in their car looked as tired as she was, just a group of friends who joked at the bottom of the train made enough noise with their banter and laughter to keep awake, but each time had to contend with more strength not to fall asleep. Unfortunately at the next station I had to make a transfer so he got out and after walking through the corridors of the station came to the platform on which would address the subway that would take her home.

The neon sign warned that the next train would take six minutes to arrive, so Paula decided to wait sitting on a bench next to the platform. The silence and solitude of the station caused the inevitable and despite his efforts he slept and almost inadvertently leaned on the bench using it like a bed. It was so deep his sleep caused by drunk that he passed the last train of the night or even feel it happen.

Until last more than an hour did not wake up, luckily drunkenness seemed partially vanished after the nap, but something seemed to go well. The sign warned the arrival of the next train was off and to check the time on her mobile phone she realized she was almost two in the morning.

Frightened started up the escalators from the station, already off to get out of there. The stop at the transfer had to do was one of the oldest, old and small town feel so overwhelmed and fear were much more intense. To reach out their worst nightmares came true. The doors were locked and there was nobody at the station so even though no one could hear shouting from the street. Besides his phone was uninsured, those damn stations had rarely signal and sealed glass doors separating it from the outside even for a few stories meters.

Paula did not know what to do, looking at security cameras and gestured hoping someone from a checkpoint could see her, but she knew that was impossible, there was no controlling the cameras because the station had been closed from the outside.

How could anyone to wake up? Did not they have security guards to check that no one was left inside the station before closing?

Her fear turned to anger at times and confusion. Of course I could not wait until the next morning Metro opened again, missing more than four hours before the service was restarted and if he came home at 7 in the morning his father would probably kill her.

With his mind clouded by alcohol still decided that the best thing I could do was walk the train tracks to the next stop. The road was really dark and gloomy but he knew his fate was not far away and thanks to light flash your phone may light the way. The following season was one

of the most important, with lots of lines and had recently been remodeled so I was sure I could find someone there that let out into the street where a taxi addressed.

The idea seemed good, but when the truth of those tunnels was really creepy, almost sepulchral silence made even the slightest of his footsteps resound with the echo of the walls. You could hear the squeaking of rats and dripping some areas where there seemed to be minor water leaks.

Her steps were short and often stopped to listen because I felt like someone watching from the darkness. Fear invaded and paralyzed at times, but it was too late to turn back, should be almost halfway when voices alerted her. For a moment he thought of shouting for them to know it was there but decided to be cautious and extinguish the light of your phone while hiding in a narrow corridor that was on the side of the tunnel.

While remaining hidden and silent saw the figure of two very large men, their eyes are becoming more suited to poor lighting emergency lights were each several meters into the tunnel. Both seemed to argue heatedly for a carton of wine and a few meters from where he stood Paula began shoving and hitting. The largest of them punched him to lay another and gloriously lifted his trophy while in one gulp drank nearly half the contents of the carton of wine.

The smallest enraged pulled a knife from his back and stabbed repeatedly in the neck of his opponent, it really was merciless with his body despite the low light Paula could see clearly as had all the bloodstained face. He picked up the little wine that was left and I gulped.

Paula was shaking from fear, not daring even to breathe and certainly much less to move, if it was still enough maybe the hobo murderer would go away without her. But chance did not want to ally with her and just as the murderer turned around to leave the place the battery of your phone he betrayed. An incessant beep warning that the load was nearly exhausted rang and the Tramp turned away.

Anyone there? I can hear you, Sal immediately or you pit!

The poor girl was petrified and did not know how to act while the murderer approached her. Instinctively he decided to throw the phone with such bad aim that this happened over the bum and hit the wall. He who had not yet seen the girl, heard a noise behind and Paula took time out of the darkness and push while running turned out.

The tramp so enraged that kept shouting and insulting Paula, she got up and began to chase her through the tunnels. She was not a good athlete but fear gripped her legs and gave him strength to run leaving half-heeled shoes she wore that night, his feet bloodied as he ran into the gravel and soil pebbles tunnel. But the fear was stronger than the pain and did not stop despite several times nearly falling to stumble because of the almost total darkness of his escape route.

Arriving at the station Paula had already managed to get a few meters to his pursuer and went to the platform to go into the corridors that led to the exit of the Metro. To his legs began to fail forces but could not stop to rest almost exhausted and climbed the final flight of stairs.

What he saw there chilled her blood, the station was closed as above and do not seem to be anyone, he began to cry desperately, gesturing to the cameras and knocking on doors. But his pursuer knew perfectly schedules and habits subway workers had climbed the ladder and had cut off all possible escape route.

The murderer was on her and raped her after immobilize and submitted for over an hour. When he had satisfied all his sexual appetites brought back rusty, bloody knife that killed the other tramp and plunged it repeatedly in the chest until Paula stopped kicking and died with a horrible expression of terror on his face.

The next day the workers found a groove blood that was lost in the depth of the tunnel, scared decide to review the videotapes recorded that night and could see the heartbreaking scene of the rape and murder and as the tramp dragged the body Paula dropping back downstairs to drag him into the darkness of the train tracks.

The police found the two bodies but found no trace of the murderer, which is said to still use the subway tunnels to hide at night.

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- **Machinery topples while crews work to clear trees**

UPDATED 12:03 AM EST Nov 20, 2015

STEPHANIE WOODS IS LIVE IN MERRIMACK WITH OUR TOP STORY. REPORTER: BOTH OF THE HOMEOWNERS WERE INSIDE THE HOUSE ON TURKEY HILL ROAD WHEN THE CRANE CAME CRASHING DOWN. THANKFULLY IT MISSED BOTH OF THEM, BUT IT LEFT A WORKER HANGING FROM A TREE. NOW, THE HOMEOWNER SAYS THAT SHE PAID HEALY TREE WORKS OF AMHERST \$5,000 TO CUT DOWN 20 TREES ON HER PROPERTY. THE CREW HAD BEEN WORKING SINCE SEVEN THIS MORNING. AS THEY WERE REMOVING THE LAST TREE AROUND 1:45 THIS AFTERNOON THE OWNER OF HEALY TREE WORKS SAYS THE CRANE HIT A SEPTIC TANK IN THE BACK YARD THAT THEY DIDN'T KNOW WAS THERE. A SINKHOLE OPENED UP, THE CRANE TOPPLED OVER AND SMASHED INTO THE ROOF OF THE HOUSE. THEY SAY THE CLIMBER HAD TO JUMP DOWN FROM THE TREE HE WAS CUTTING TO MISS THE CRANE. THE CRANE OPERATOR STARTED YELLING TO OUR CLIMBER SAYING IT'S COMING OVER, IT'S GOING OVER, ARE YOU OKAY. AND HE WAS JUST HOLDING ON TO THE TREE AS CLOSE AS HE COULD SO HE WOULDN'T GET HIMSELF KILLED, AND NEXT THING YOU KNOW, TWIST, THE BOTTOM OF THE CRANE HIT HIS FOOT, CRUSHED IT. I SAID OH MY GOD, I WAS LOOKING OUT THE WINDOW OVER THE SINK, I SAID THE CRANE IS RIGHT OVER. REPORTER: THE OWNER OF HEALY TREE WORKS SAYS HIS WORKER IS IN THE HOSPITAL WITH A BROKEN FOOT BUT HOPEFULLY WILL BE BACK TO WORK IN FOUR TO SIX WEEKS AND IS EXPECTED TO BE OKAY. THE HOMEOWNER SAYS SHE'S LIVED HERE FOR 28 YEARS BUT NEVER KNEW

MERRIMACK, N.H. —A crane crashed through the roof of a Merrimack home Thursday where workers were cutting trees.

The owner of the house on Turkey Hill Road said she hired Healey Tree Works to cut down 20 trees on her property. The crew was cutting down the last tree when the crane hit a septic tank in the backyard, which opened a sinkhole.

The crane toppled over and smashed into the roof of the home, where two people were inside. The people inside weren't hurt, but a worker was left dangling from the tree. When the operator tried to move the crane, the climber was injured when it hit his foot.

The injured climber was taken to a nearby hospital.

The homeowner said she has owned the house for 28 years but never knew about the second septic system that caused the problem.

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AFP · 16 Nov 2015, 18:28

Published: 16 Nov 2015 18:28
GMT+01:00

A German suspected triple agent charged with treason admitted Monday to spying for the CIA, telling a court he had done so out of dissatisfaction with his secret service job.

"No one trusted me with anything at the Federal Intelligence Service

(BND). At the CIA it was different," Markus Reichel told a Munich court at the opening of his trial.

Reichel's case emerged during a furore over revelations of widespread US spying, revealed by former CIA intelligence contractor Edward Snowden, which has also sunk its partner service the BND into an unprecedented crisis.

Besides accusing him of sending "scores of documents and internal information" to the US Central Intelligence Agency, prosecutors said Reichel also provided three documents to the Russian secret service in the country's Munich consulate.

Sitting in the dock, the 32-year-old appeared an unlikely agent.

Partially disabled after a botched childhood vaccination, Reichel, who grew up in communist East Germany, spoke haltingly.

After finishing his studies at a training centre for the disabled in 2004, he had been unable to find a job until late 2007, when the BND gave him a position in its mailroom.

With monthly net pay of 1,200 euros, Reichel was in the lowest salary band at the BND.

But the CIA wasn't paying significantly more, the court heard – Reichel allegedly received between 10,000 and 20,000 euros each year in cash at a secret meeting point in Austria.

In all, he obtained 95,000 euros in exchange for documents including names and addresses of BND agents. Rather, what Reichel obtained from the CIA was recognition.

"I would be lying if I said that I didn't like that," he told the court.

Until his arrest on July 2 last year, Reichel was still working for the BND.

If convicted, he could face up to 15 years in prison.

Reichel's case emerged in the wake of revelations the United States has been carrying out widespread surveillance on global communications.

The information stemming from documents made public by Snowden strained ties between Washington and Germany, a key European ally, and led to the expulsion of the US spy chief in Berlin.

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Saturday, August 15, 2015

Trunks, Crates, and Barrels.

Disposing of the body without being captured has always been a post-mortem problem for a murderer, but in the nineteenth century there always seemed to be a large receptacle handy—steamer trunks, shipping crates, and wooden barrels have all been used to a killer's advantage. With a little body modification, a barrel can be used as a makeshift coffin or to float a body downriver. A large trunk can conceal a body while transporting it to a dumping spot or hide it long enough for a killer's escape. The most creative method was to crate the body and ship it to a city far away. It is not known how many times this mode succeeded, but it failed enough times to demonstrate its popularity.



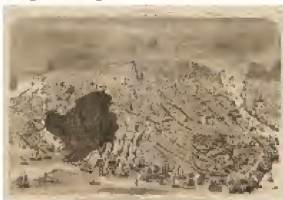
John C. Colt put the body of Samuel Adams in shipping crate and sent it to New Orleans c/o General Delivery. If the ship had left on schedule, his plan may have worked.

The Corpse in the Shipping Crate



A trunk bound for Chicago by train was found to contain the body of Alice Bowsby, put there by abortionist Jacob Rosenzweig.

The Great Trunk Mystery



The dismembered body of Abijah Ellis was found stuffed inside two barrels floating down the Charles River. The killer's identity was never known for certain.

The Boston Barrel Tragedy



Thomas Samon put the body of Jane Ford in a trunk and rolled it on a wheelbarrow through Laconia, New Hampshire, looking for a place to leave it.

The New Hampshire Horror



Hugh Motram Brooks left the body of Charles Arthur Preller inside a trunk in a St. Louis, hotel. He got as far as New Zealand before the body was discovered.

The St. Louis Trunk Tragedy



The body of Mary Anne Reinhardt was found in a barrel buried on Staten Island. Her husband Edward did not dig deep enough to conceal it.

The Silver Lake Mystery.



When Della Tilson told George Wheeler that she planned to wed another, he strangled her and put her body in a trunk.

'Thus She Passed Away.'

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An undeveloped embryo was removed from the stomach of a 15-day-old boy Nov. 6 at Henan Provincial People's Hospital in China. Newsflare video screenshot

ZHENGZHOU, China, Nov. 13 (UPI) -- Doctors at a Chinese hospital said a suspected tumor removed from the body of a two-week-old infant turned out to be the embryo of the newborn's undeveloped twin.

The Henan Provincial People's Hospital said the 15-day-old boy underwent surgery Nov. 6 for a suspected abdominal tumor and doctors were surprised to discover the growth was actually an underdeveloped embryo.

Video shared by the hospital shows the 7-ounce embryo had developed small feet, but few other features.

Doctors said the boy is recovering and is expected to be released from the hospital soon.

This is not the first instance of a case like this as a 26-year-old woman who underwent surgery in Los Angeles earlier this year for a suspected brain tumor was told after waking that the removed growth was a teratoma, or embryonic twin.

Yamini Karanam joked the tumor, which was not cancerous, was an "evil twin sister who's been torturing me for the past 26 years."

A medical team at Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Hong Kong released a study early this year detailing the case of an infant girl born "pregnant" with twin siblings in a condition known as "fetus-in-fetu."

"It was almost impossible to detect during the prenatal checkup, as the embryo inside the baby was too small," Dr. Yu Kai-man wrote in the Hong Kong Medical Journal. "Since it is impossible for the little girl to have conceived the pregnancy on her own, the fertilization of the twin fetuses, of course, belongs to her parents, which has gone to the wrong place."

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Twin Brides. Twin Grooms. Twin Priests. This Wedding is Twice as Nice

Offbeat | Written by Subuhi Parvez | Updated: November 12, 2015 14:21 IST

ndtv.com



Image courtesy: Facebook/Iranjalakuda.com

Sometimes, life scripts a better story than Bollywood could ever hope to. A video currently doing the rounds on social media features a double whammy wedding starring several sets of twins - twin sisters marry twin brothers in a ceremony presided over by twin priests and attended by twin flower girls and twin page boys.

Phew. That's a true story, right there.

Reema and Reena, from Kerala's Idukki district, married Dilraj and Dilker at the St. Xavier's church in Pulur, according to Iranjalakuda.com.

The priests who officiated were named Reji and Roji. The newlyweds were attended by twin flower girls in pink and twin page boys in purple, believed to be the children of their neighbours.

It's unlikely that the guest list was also composed of twins but right now, we could believe anything. Watch the video here, and we wish the newlyweds happiness.

Story First Published: November 12, 2015 14:21 IST

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It is said that among twins that there is a special bond when something happens to one of them the other can feel it. An extreme case is what will happen to the girls in this chilling urban legend ...

There were two twin sisters got along very well, like they were born to be friends: never quarreled, rarely discussed, shared everything they could, had the same hobbies and dislikes and even dressed like that.

All his life had been in a quiet neighborhood somewhat away from bustling own many parts of the city residential area. But now for work, his mother had told them to move to a different area of the city, a part in which there was much more activity and thus should be more careful.

Thus came a day when the mother called from work and, unlike so many other days, the girls had to cross a fairly busy street alone. As they crossed the street hundreds of times with her mother thought she could stop worrying about her daughters and told them they had to go fast and they could cross alone without problem as long as look at both sides and well attentive to automobiles.

The girls followed the advice of the mother and this continued to hold his back; but, no sooner had walked a few meters, he heard a terrible noise, something like the noise made by breaking a coconut.

They were his daughters, lying on the pavement with smashed heads and brains scattered with shards of bone. In the distance a truck fled at full speed, the driver probably distracted by the phone or perhaps having taken a couple of drinks at mealtime, the coiled without even slow down. The reckless driver to feel the little bodies crushed under the wheels of the truck accelerated and not only not help, but it also endangering other drivers who could suffer an accident as he passed him in his desperate flight.

Unfortunately everyone was so shocked that no one had time to target your tuition so she escaped unpunished.

The mother wept inconsolably in the middle of stopped traffic, shouting and waving their little bodies like waiting to get up again and offered him one of her smiles. How could overcome the loss of your little angels just eight years?

They say time is the best remedy and it was ... I was young, was only about 28 years and a few years later, she was pregnant again. Coincidences of fate had another twin time: the problem is that he could not entirely forget their dead daughters, especially because in some way or another their new twin-now were just the age when he died anteriores- remembered their first daughters.

They had so much in common that sometimes even wrong name to call them and burst into

tears to remember ...

But this time for the world to neglect its small. The was forbidden to cross the street alone.

One day however he saw while playing in the park near his house were getting too close to the street and, terrified, shouted at them to stop, to which they replied in unison:

No thought crossing, and got hit us again here and will not happen again ...

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Saturday, October 10, 2015

Unrequited Love.

Little Murders



Andrew J. Gillen

When he was a young law student, Andrew J. Gillen was mentored by Michael Sigerson, Assistant Corporation Lawyer for New York City. Gillen was a troubled youth whose family had disowned him over his "habits of dissipation," and appreciated Sigerson's help and hospitality. He would often visit Sigerson's home on Lewis Street, where he lived with his widowed mother, his brother John and his sister Mary.

The mentoring continued for several years and over that time Gillen fell in love with Mary Sigerson. She was thirty-years-old, brunette, short and somewhat stout, quiet and reserved, educated as a teacher, but did not feel robust enough to follow that occupation. Though she was described as "not particularly handsome," Gillen was infatuated with Mary and, after passing the bar, he continued to visit the Sigerson home to see her.

Andrew Gillen was a fine looking young man with light hair and blue eyes, but he was only twenty-three and Mary did not take his advances seriously. Undeterred, Gillen persisted until his conduct became too annoying to tolerate. Mary and her mother requested that he cease his visits.

Devastated, Gillen sent Mary a note, appealing for an opportunity to win her affections. Mary sent a note back, agreeing to see him once more. She told her mother that she would dismiss Gillen after a few minutes. When he arrived, he was allowed into the family sitting-room on the second floor, and Mrs. Sigerson went in and out of the room several times, to make her presence known.

Gillen professed his love for Mary, and she continued to refuse him, he persisted until Mary and her mother said goodnight and told him to leave. He asked for a drink of water, and when Mary went to get it, he followed after her. When they reentered the sitting-room, Gillen threw his left arm around her neck. Mary called for her mother to take his hand away, and Mrs. Sigerson grabbed Gillen's sleeve. Then, with his right hand he pulled a revolver from his pocket, placed the barrel against Mary's head and fired, killing her instantly. Gillen rushed from the house, leaving his hat behind.

A search of Gillen's room revealed nothing. The police learned that he had an aunt living on Lewis Street, and when questioned, she said that Gillen had rushed into her rooms that evening and leaped out a rear window to the roof of another building. He told her that he would be dead before nine o'clock but said nothing more.

The police believed that Gillen had committed suicide but, since they had not found his body, they sent his description throughout the country just in case. Gillen had reportedly been seen in Pennsylvania, and outside of Jersey City, New Jersey, a man turned himself in to the police for committing a terrible crime, but would not say what it was. When asked if he had killed Mary Sigerson in New York, the man pulled out a knife and tried to cut his own throat.

Whatever the New Jersey man's crime, it was not the murder of Mary Sigerson. Andrew Gillen was captured on December 3, in Cedar Keys, Florida. When arrested, he was wearing two pairs of pants. After the first pair was removed, the police could see that he had gunshot wounds in his legs. A bullet had entered his right thigh and come out below the knee, then entered his left leg, just above the ankle. He refused to say how he had shot himself. They sent for a doctor, but it was too late; Gillen had lost too much blood. Before he died, Andrew Gillen made the following statement:

"I have nothing to live for. I shot her by accident, intending the bullet for myself and that she should witness my death, and would rather meet her in Heaven than live without her. I might go back to New York and be acquitted, but I don't wish to live after my little girl."

Sources:

"A Rejected Lover's Crime." *National Police Gazette* 27 Nov 1880.

"Fatally Shot By Her Lover." *New York Tribune* 11 Nov 1880.

"Is He Andrew Gillen?" *New York Herald* 15 Nov 1880.

"Miss Sigerson's Murder." *New York Herald* 18 Nov 1880.

"Mortuary Notice." *Philadelphia Inquirer* 6 Dec 1880.

"Summary Of News." *Sentinel* 13 Nov 1880.

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Saturday, June 27, 2015

The Unwritten Law.

Little Murders



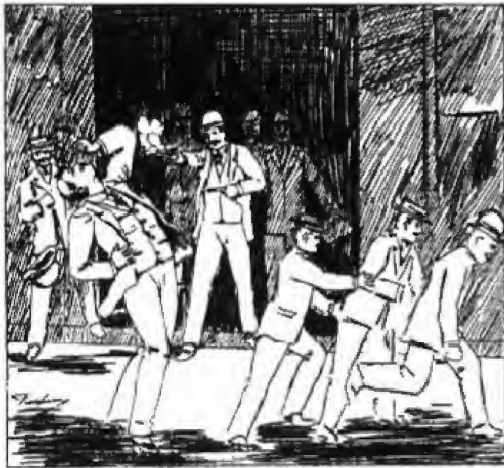
Robert McBride was the wealthy operator of a cotton seed oil mill in Newnan, Georgia. He had come to Georgia from New Jersey, and quickly entered the vigorous business life of Newnan, with interests in several mills and factories. In 1893, he was a quiet and gentlemanly, 44 year-old bachelor, living in a boarding house run by Patrick Meehan and his wife.

Meehan was a successful traveling salesman for a Louisville, Kentucky, whisky distiller, whose job kept him in the road for

long periods. In August 1893, Meehan was in New York City, and Robert McBride decided to use this opportunity to express his affection for Mrs. Meehan; his feelings for her had been steadily growing during the two years he spent under her roof. When they were alone on the front veranda, McBride told Mrs. Meehan that he wished to have a confidential conversation with her. Mrs. Meehan was taken aback and told Meehan that if he had anything confidential to say he should write it down and send it to Mr. Meehan, and she left the porch.

Her curiosity got the best of her, and sometime later Mrs. Meehan came back and asked McBride what he wanted to say. He told her that he loved her. Mrs. Meehan went into a paroxysm of indignation saying she planned to telegraph her husband and tell him of the insult. McBride apologized profusely and begged her not to tell her husband. Then, attempting to explain his actions, and to persuade Mrs. Meehan to keep quiet, he said he knew that a strange man visited the house when her husband was away, and he even knew the signal he used to let her know he was there. To demonstrate, McBride went outside and shook a small tree near the house. This accusation only made Mrs. Meehan angrier and McBride was compelled to leave the house that night.

Though he had been born in the north, Robert McBride was well aware that he had violated "the unwritten law" of southern etiquette, he had insulted another man's wife. He went to Atlanta and explained the situation to his friend, Dr. Thomas Longino, asking him to intercede on his behalf with Mr. Meehan. McBride said he would do anything, even sell all his holdings and leave Newnan, if Meehan would accept his apology. At the same time, knowing his life was in danger, McBride finalized his will and wrote a letter explaining his actions, which he gave to Dr. Longino for publication in the event of his murder. Dr. Longino suggested that he travel to Savannah until the matter cooled down.



Scene of the Killing.

As 4:35, the afternoon of August 14, Robert McBride was waiting on the platform when the train carrying Patrick Meehan arrived in Atlanta. Meehan recognized McBride instantly when he stepped off the train and, with a pistol in each hand, he went up behind Meehan and without a word fired one shot into his temple and one in his neck. A third bullet grazed the shoulder of Mr. C. S. Reid, who had been talking to McBride at the time. McBride fell to the ground and moaned, "Lord have mercy." He died soon after.

Meehan walked casually down the platform and was quickly arrested by a patrolman. "All right," said Meehan when he was apprehended, "I did the shooting, but I was justifiable."

Public sentiment quickly turned against Meehan. Though he denied shooting McBride from behind, eye witnesses at the depot said otherwise. Reid said McBride never saw the man who shot him.

But by the time of Meehan's trial the following December, public opinion had changed and most now believed that Meehan had done the right thing in shooting the man who had insulted his wife. The jury took only eight minutes to deliberate and when they returned a verdict of not guilty, presiding Judge Clark reportedly rubbed his hands in glee and said, "It is grand; it is grand." When the verdict was read, more than a thousand spectators who filled the courtroom, erupted in loud applause.

Sources:

"Cheered His Acquittal." *Patriot* 18 Dec 1893.

"Knew He Must Die." *National Police Gazette* 2 Sep 1893.

"Loved Another Man's Wife.." *Daily Inter Ocean* 15 Aug 1893.

"Made Quick Work." *Daily Journal and Journal and Tribune* 17 Dec 1893

"Said he Loved Her." *Atlanta Constitution* 15 Aug 1893.

"The Atlanta Tragedy." *Columbus Daily Enquirer* 16 Aug 1893.

"The Unwritten Law" *State* 15 Aug 1893.

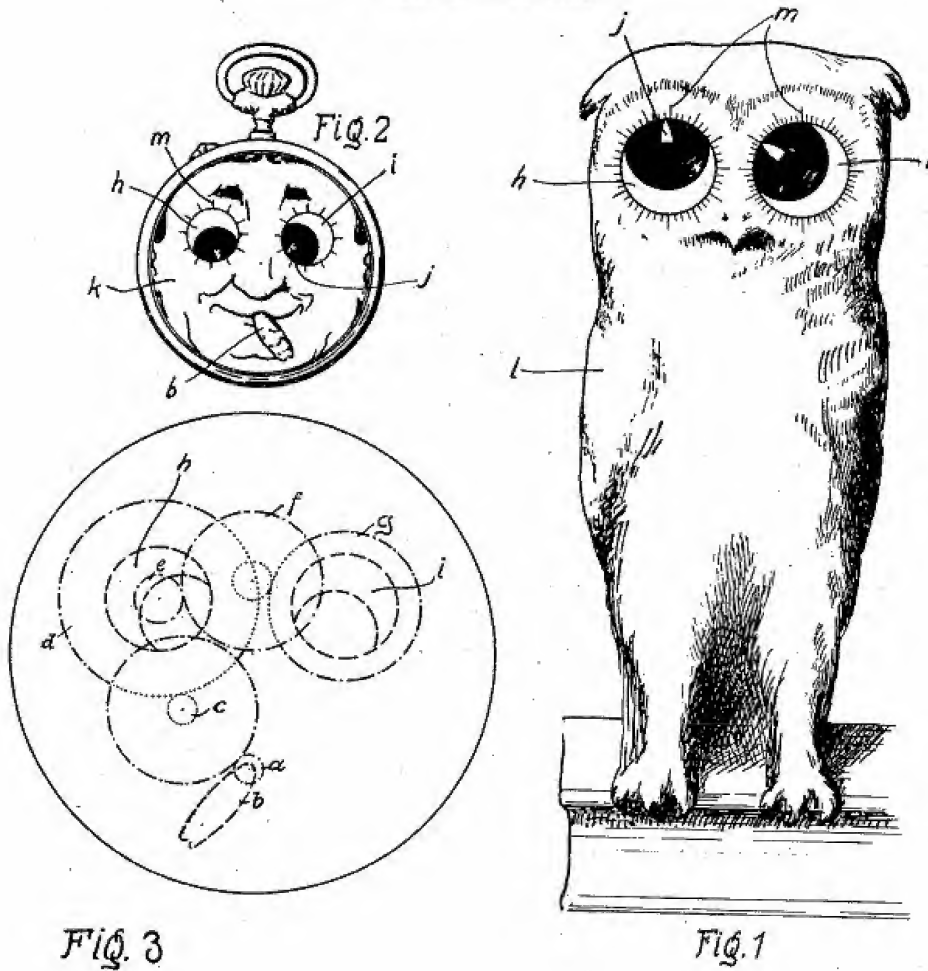
Aug. 31, 1926.

F. OSWALD

1,598,497

DEVICE FOR ADVERTISING PURPOSES

Filed Nov. 5, 1925



Inventor:
Fitz Oswald
by J. S. Mullen
att'y.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

FRITZ OSWALD, OF FRANKFORT-ON-THE-MAIN, GERMANY.

DEVICE FOR ADVERTISING PURPOSES.

Application filed November 5, 1925, Serial No. 66,907, and in Germany September 15, 1924.

The invention has for its object to provide a useful and highly effective advertising device.

This object is attained by giving to the 5 indicating elements of a measuring instrument, such as a timepiece, the appearance of an organ or feature of a mechanical figure or face.

The annexed drawings show mechanism 10 whereby the invention may be carried into effect, but are to be considered as illustrative rather than limiting.

Fig. 1 is an elevation showing a mechanical figure wherein the eyes are adapted to 15 register hours and minutes respectively;

Fig. 2 shows a modification having members adapted to register hours, minutes and seconds; and

Fig. 3 is an enlarged detail of the actuating mechanism of Fig. 2.

Referring more particularly to Fig. 1, the figure 1 is a representation of an owl, and is adapted to contain clockwork for actuating the movable disks *h* and *i*, each of 25 which represents an eye and carries an index mark *j*, which cooperate with scales *m* to register the time, disk *h* registering the hours and disk *i* the minutes. The mechanism for rotating disks *h* and *i* in a clockwise direction is similar to that shown in 30 Fig. 3.

In Fig. 2 is shown a watch having a dial which simulates a human face, wherein disks *h* and *i* register hours and minutes respectively, while an index *b*, simulating a 35 cigar, registers the seconds. The movable features, *h*, *i*, and *b*, are actuated by a train

of gears and pinions *g*, *f*, *e*, *d*, *c*, and *a* geared in the ratio of 3600:60:1 and driven by the usual watchwork.

Instead of a timepiece, any measuring instrument, such as a thermometer or barometer may be employed as the prime mover.

An advantage of the present invention over known advertising devices having a 45 timepiece or thermometer as one feature thereof lies in the fact that in the present device it is impossible to read the time or temperature and ignore the remainder of the advertisement, since the indicating mem- 50 bers are features of the figure itself.

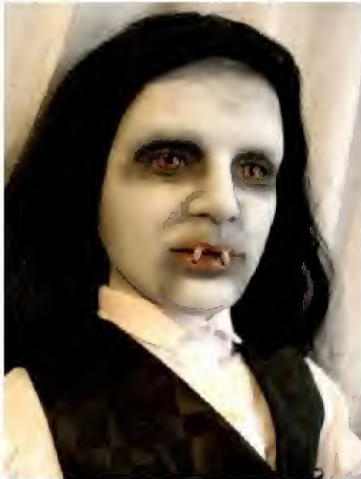
What I claim is:—

1. In an advertising device, the combination with a measuring instrument, of a figure having movable features, indicating 55 marks on said figure and connecting means between said instrument and said features, whereby the quantity being measured is registered by the position of said features relative to said indicating marks. 60

2. In an advertising device, the combination with a measuring instrument, of a mechanical figure having movable members, the movement of which calls attention to the device, said members being connected to the moving parts of said instrument to be 65 actuated thereby, indicating marks on said figure adapted to cooperate with said members and to thereby register the quantity being measured. 70

Signed at Frankfort-on-the-Main, in the Republic of Germany, this 17th day of October, A. D., 1925.

FRITZ OSWALD.

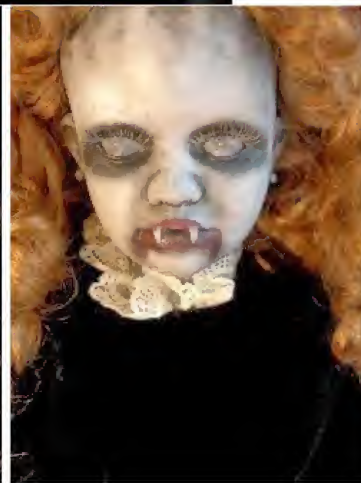
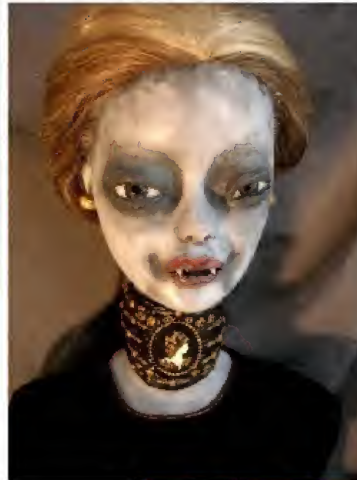


These creations are part of " **vampire** ", a creation of" dolls dark
"de este artist.



All are handmade and are unique, so I guess its
price will not be cheap, but if you are interested
in any data the author is your website are:

<http://www.darkcreation.com/dagmar.html>





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The terrifying images and videos virgin statues shedding tears of blood, or open their eyes, some are approved and verified as real while many others still remain a mystery cases. The disturbing issue of the statues of **virgins who weep** or ooze blood is a strange at the same time terrifying case. The very image of a statue bathed in blood in real time as he opens his eyes, is an event that in many cases has not yet been proven as real, but at other times if they are officially recognized. Here you can read the highlights and chilling cases in history.

Immaculate Conception in Cochabamba

The expression was discovered by a parishioner when he observed that Marian statue exposed beside the altar of Christ of the Tears of St. Peter blood again inundarsele right eye and left thereafter.

" *We are all shocked at this new miracle* ", often tell the devotees who attend private chapel located in the San Pedro (belonging to the family **Arevalo-Urquidi**).

It is the second time that a similar phenomenon occurs in the image. The first happened four months ago when the first statue shed tears rose smelling blood and then, in 12 successive occasions.

Maria Immaculate Conception



The owner of the statue of the Virgin that reportedly wept tears of blood on two occasions in January and April 2006, has said it is experiencing visions of the Virgin Mary on the hill Nadur Borg in Birzebugia.

According **Angelik Caruana** , if people believe there will be a signal that the Virgin appearances and messages are being transmitted by it on the same hill. Mr. Caruana had experienced visions of the Virgin in three different churches before October 2006. The man has now added that he has also seen visions of the Virgin Mary on the hill **Nadur Borg** numerous times.

Speaking on Sunday during a prayer meeting MIR Parish of the Holy Trinity in Marsa, Mr Caruana said that the apparition occurred on December 1, Our Lady told her that God sent to the hill of Borg to Nadur call to conversion. The Holy Mother told Mr. Caruana that on 28 November on the hill wanted to appear to him. During the apparition happened three days later, they were also present Mr. Caruana's wife, Catherine, and a priest, Fr. Hayden. According to Mr. Caruana, this vision was different from others he had experienced before, with a bright light emerging from the sky like a fireball. Once the vision ended, Fr. Hayden asked Mr. Caruana to put a crucifix in the place where I saw appear to the **Virgin Mary**.

Another view man was experienced on December 2, this time the Holy Mother appeared near the crucifix that had the day before. Madonna told Mr. Caruana to tell him to pray Hayden to put a larger crucifix in Nadur Borg Hill. She also called for the man placed in place a statue of her on behalf of the Queen of Peace and the Family.

In a third appearance at the same point on December 8, the feast of the Immaculate Conception, several people gathered around Mr. Caruana. The Virgin told the man that she had called for the first pilgrimage to the hill on that day and the evil forces of Satan could be

overcome praying the rosary she said. Since then, Mr Caruana said that the Virgin has called to pray the rosary with her once or twice a week.

Mr. Caruana is also in possession of a statue of the Virgin that cried blood reportedly.

Maltese church is investigating the statue of **Holy Mary of the Immaculate Conception** that wept blood in the man's home in **Birzebbugia** twice in January and April 2006.

Virgin Mary of Traunstein



This Madonna weeping blood amazes a German village. A devout Catholic woman southern German town of Traunstein has reported that a figurine of the Virgin Mary found in her apartment, 30 centimeters, emitted blood. The inhabitants of the Bavarian town of Traunstein have been perplexed by the reports of the tears of blood that have been dripping eye and members of a small statue of the Madonna which is in the apartment of a pensioner.

Bled almost every day from Good Friday, told reporters the woman named only as Renate D. "It is somewhat like a miracle but I can not explain it," he said. She was described as "pious but not bigoted" and said he would not dream of making history or manipulate the figurine she bought 15 years ago for the equivalent of 40 euros, during a visit to Catholic Poland. He also claimed to have seen an

apparition of the Virgin Mary, who sent him speak of suffering in the world. The local priest has visited the woman and came out saying it appeared to be an "individual religious experience" of one person. The director of the diocese has said it will launch an investigation if the other checks allowed. Reporters from the local newspaper, the Traunsteiner Tagblatt, visited the department and said the face, hands, feet and white suit porcelain figure of 30 centimeters appeared to be bloodstained. The newspaper conducted forensic blood tests and found to be a human being. Now reporters claim to have solved the mystery but do not want to say who they think is behind it. First they want to compare the bloodstains of the Madonna with blood from people who suspect. The only problem is that their suspects are refusing to undergo blood tests.

You may also like: Mirrors, entrance to another world

Guadalupe's Virgin

EFE reports that hundreds of people have passed since a few days before an image of the **Virgin of Guadalupe**, in a humble house in Nuevo Laredo (Mexico), because they ensure that cries blood, although a priest asks wait for it to make a Scientific Research.

Maria Guadalupe Salazar Martinez, owner of the image, said the Virgin began to shed tears last Ash Wednesday and since then has

continued crying.

The version has attracted hundreds of people from Nuevo Laredo, a town bordering the US of



Laredo (Texas), who visit the house of Salazar, 33, who once declared Guadalupe devoted a decade.

The woman, who lives with her husband in a house of wood, foil and cardboard, said that on 21 February, the day of the beginning of Lent, the image of the Virgin of Guadalupe began to mourn "normal tears" but then They have become blood.

The priest Luis Antonio Romo Esparza, parish priest of a temple of Nuevo Laredo, told EFE that after knowing the fact Salazar went to the house to personally observe the image.

Romo Esparza declared itself incompetent to affirm the existence of a miracle and said, "before you can declare as a miracle we need the consent of our Bishop Ricardo Watty, that an investigation is made and scientifically verify the authenticity of tears "Romo Esparza, however, did not rule out the possibility that it may be a divine manifestation.

According to Catholic legend, the Virgin of Guadalupe appeared on December 12, 1531 the Indian Juan Diego on the hill of Tepeyac, where before there was a temple to an Aztec goddess, in central Mexico.

Madonnina of Civitavecchia

In January 2005 the Italian daily Corriere della Sera said it had had access to a dossier with numerous unpublished documents confirming as a "miracle" if the "Madonnina of Civitavecchia," an image of the Virgin Mary that wept blood fourteen times for ten años. Obispo of Civitavecchia, Mons. Girolamo Grilli, "who spent the most radical skepticism to acceptance of the puzzle" when on the morning of March 15, 1995, as was holding the statue of the eyes started dating this blood that reached to the neck of the figure.

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Sunday, 18 October 2015

WALT DISNEY AND THE BLACK PUMA THAT NEVER WAS



What are North America's mystery black panthers – escapee/released melanistic leopards, or native all-black pumas? (© William Rebsamen)

Time to debunk another crypto-controversy, though in this case it's not a deliberate hoax, merely a mixture of confusion and absence of the required facts.

As I have documented elsewhere on ShukerNature ([click here](#)), physical evidence for the reality of melanistic (all-black) pumas *Puma concolor* (aka cougars, mountain lions, painters, etc) in North America is conspicuous only by its absence. Certainly, large all-black cats often nicknamed panthers or black panthers (names more correctly applied to melanistic specimens of the leopard *Panthera pardus*) have been frequently reported from many parts of the United States and Canada too, but none has ever been made available for scientific examination resulting in a confirmed identification (even outside North America, I only know of two verified dorsally black, ventrally paler pumas – one shot in Costa Rica, the other in Brazil; I know of no verified all-black pumas from anywhere). So what do we have in the following video clip?

Several times lately, correspondents have drawn my attention to a certain brief clip of film, which keeps appearing, disappearing, and reappearing on YouTube. It's back again at present, so view while you can [here](#). Judging from the comments present beneath it on YouTube, viewers seem to think shows a genuine film of a genuine all-black (melanistic) puma attacking and killing a dog. The reality is very different.

For reasons that I shall give below, this is clearly not a genuine all-black puma, it is simply a normal one that has been dyed black all over in order to resemble North America's elusive mystery black panthers of cryptozoological acclaim. Nor is this a real, non-fiction video either – it is merely a clip from the 1977 'Wonderful World of Disney' television movie entitled *The Ghost of Cypress Swamp*, starring Jeff East and Vic Morrow.

A computer-generated image of what a melanistic puma may look like (© Dr Karl Shuker)

As a massive life-long Disney fan, I used to watch this series avidly as a youngster, as well as its equally excellent predecessor, 'Walt Disney's Wonderful World of Color', and as you'd expect, I can still remember seeing the black puma clips from this particular movie, though I



have to confess that prior to re-watching it on YouTube in relation to the black puma segments, the rest of it was somewhat of a haze now, almost 40 years later. Curiously, although shown in England, it has apparently never been released in the USA, its unfamiliarity therefore possibly helping to explain why clips from it featuring the cosmetically-created black puma have been mistakenly assumed by some online viewers to depict real scenes featuring a real black puma.

The whole movie can be viewed on YouTube [here](#), with the clip in question beginning at 1.25:10 and continuing (with a brief break during which the dog's owner goes home to get his gun) for the next couple of minutes before the dog is rescued alive and well by its owner. This is, after all, a Disney family movie, so naturally all ends well for the dog. As for its general storyline, here is the plot synopsis accompanying it on YouTube: "Set in swamplands in Georgia his dog is attacked by a panther called Weakfoot. Later he [Jeff East's character] is captured by a wild man living in the swamps and believed to be dead".

So, why do I not think that this all-black puma is genuine? In a few clips in the film, the black dye has seemingly rubbed off or has been licked off by the puma from parts of its face (or had not fully stained to begin with?), especially around the eyes, and on the mouth and nose (most noticeably at 15:41), revealing its normal paler fur. As already noted above, the only confirmed black pumas were dark dorsally but paler ventrally, not uniformly black (i.e. they were not melanistic pumas). And if this cat had truly been a black puma, it would have been so valuable and rare that it would have been one of the biggest, most famous stars in Hollywood in its own right, as famous as Lassie and Rin Tin Tin.

So, as film cops always say at the denouement of a crime case: move on, people - nothing to see here.

UPDATE - 19 October 2015

Continuing with American black mystery panthers in movies: the infamous John Wayne/Susan Hayward movie *The Conqueror* (1956) also featured what looked like a puma with all-black pelage - so I've now watched the relevant segment from the film to check this out. Moreover, I have since learnt from Facebook friend and fellow crypto-enthusiast Ian C. Thomas that the cat was indeed a puma, but once again dyed black. Here is the relevant information (including a photo), as excerpted from the website *Poseidon's Underworld* ([click here](#) to access it in full). Thanks, Ian!

She [Susan Hayward] was supposed to have a scene involving a black panther (a tiny snippet of which still remains) in which she kicked it in the rear, but there were many issues.

The panther was so ill-tempered [but wouldn't you be if someone was trying to kick you in the rear?!] that it went to maul her, then it was replaced with a puma painted black, but the beast kept licking all of the paint off itself!

And here is what an article on this film that appeared [here](#) on the London *Telegraph* newspaper's website had to say about that particular scene's attempt to utilise the original black panther:

At some point a distinctly non-indigenous black panther was shipped in to 'liven up' the background of one scene. Except that it then attacked Susan Hayward, attempting to take a bite out of her arm.

Several other corroborating accounts concerning the black panther and the dyed-black puma that replaced it in *The Conqueror* can be found online.

Further information concerning the likelihood (or otherwise) of black pumas existing can also be found in my two books on mystery cats – *Mystery Cats of the World* (1989) and *Cats of Magic, Mythology, and Mystery* (2012).

4 comments:



1. Stooshie18 October 2015 at 19:09

Great blog Karl.



• Dr Karl Shuker19 October 2015 at 04:12

Thanks Stu!



2. Tyler Houck18 October 2015 at 20:54

I never knew there was a black panther in a Disney film... Cool stuff Karl.



• Dr Karl Shuker19 October 2015 at 04:13

Thanks Tyler!

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World Toilet Day: 10 water companies reveal the weirdest things people have flushed down the loo

quirker.co.uk

19 November 2015

A hand-grenade? A motorbike? A *greenhouse*? All we have here are questions...

Michael Moran

It's world toilet day. If you're anything like us, you go to the toilet most days, and you're wondering what all the fuss is about.

But today's a day to think about people elsewhere in the world who don't have access to adequate toilet facilities and may never know the simple pleasure of disappearing upstairs for 10 minutes with the newspaper.

But it's also a day to think about something that we take for granted. And, all too often, misuse terribly.

The Consumer Council for Water have released a chart of the weirdest, most ludicrous items that have turned up in Britain's sewers.

The loo should really be used for 'the three Ps' – Poo, pee and paper. Arguably the occasional goldfish at a push.

But here's a list of truly bizarre items that someone, somewhere has flushed in the past year.

Sewerage company (England and Wales)	'Fatbergs' cleared	Strangest items pulled from the sewer
Anglian Water	10,700	False teeth, toy action figures, golf balls, mobile phones.
Dŵr Cymru (Welsh Water)	24,000	Mini motorbike; mop heads, trousers, fence posts.
Northumbrian Water	3,000	Large hammer, animal skull.
Severn Trent Water	31,500	A <i>full-sized</i> motorbike. Not a mini one like those Welsh lightweight.
Southern Water	12,400	'Adult toys', dead sheep, false teeth, severed fingers, teddy bears
South West Water	8,500	A dismantled greenhouse, 12-inch kitchen knife, underwear, false teeth
Thames Water	73,500	Dead badger, toy boat, glasses, false teeth.
United Utilities	10,800	A hand grenade, road cones, toy prams, a dead sheep.
Wessex Water	13,000	A toy 'Nemo' fish.
Yorkshire Water	17,000	A space hopper, gold jewellery, more false teeth...

Are you one of the miscreants that flushed something peculiar? How on Earth did you get a greenhouse down the loo?

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The vast majority of the websites That we know are dedicated to something specific, focused messages, images, videos, articles and content Which usually plans on a subject, based on the criterion of offer visitors Specifically what is looking for.

Conversely, we can find places Also That surprised and disturbed, even They seem to be telling us something subliminally, as if trying to sow some kind of message in the depths of our

mind. In this article we will know and we will dive into one Of Those rare places under a large network domain, a Place That has sparked controversy in almost every forum in any field, and always Where Asked the same question is, what is sentimentalcorp. com?



Extracted image of SentimentalCorp

Sentimental is a disturbing corp.com website, some even claim to Have not gone very well in the course of the interactive visit Protagonists we can be. Strange Images that hint at people and things unflattering With faces, spooky sounds, not very encouraging and intriguing Accompanying video melodies on each link and each point of the website you're Accessing.



If we make a tour of some minutes sentimenalcorp, we Realize That there are clear signs allude That mysterious and controversial as: such as UFOs, extraterrestrial life and subliminal messages themes, but what stands out is the illuminati symbolism of That Which many would argue enigmatic esta site is the result, but there is an other side to this view, Which revisits in a very different purpose of this website Instead Being a kind of retaliation Against the Illuminati and everything That has to see the new world order.



As I say, there are many videos and songs That stay in this place, in most cases we can witness how people are victims of modern society, a power That marea the world and deceives, Who Runs into silence and submission, They headed towards consumerism and why not, to staff destruction.

Videos There are people dressed in Which Appears, with no less strange masks and makeup, Talking about politics, religion and daily life in a rather unusual way, as loving us say That everything we do in our lives is the work of a conspiracy, we Were manipulated by television, radio and other media. All it Accompanied by strange effects, Such as trying to pretend That we are under the influence of any drugs.

" WARNING: This site has a hypnotic induction and subliminal messages, and is mentally and psychologically toxic. "

Perhaps for many of the visitors Who Have HAD esta goal can seem really is a toxic place for the mind,

but by the type of Messages that can be deduced from Certain videos and songs, many Suggest That it is not as toxic, and It is a kind of way to open the supposed reality That we hide the true leaders of the world.

"I like watching sports, my favorite team Loses if I get depressed if you win, I Become happy."

Such messages can be found hidden Among so outrageous content. THUS exposing himself like a big conspiracy to get lethargic society in question. Among These messages can be glimpsed direct accusations Governments like the United States, mass media: such as Facebook, even pointing to the reptilians as responsible for all this.



Extracted image of SentimentalCorp

It is very striking in sentimentalcorp.com That Constantly repeat the name of Randy Prozac, This name can be displayed in Countless corners of this website, and is presumably the name of the creator of this site are Said, Although many things about the name and the reality of the wearer.

"Prozac" is a famous brand of antidepressants, This May give us another explanation, we check leading a happy life playing When in fact it is not.

There are few theories about the true identity of "Randy Prozac", as well as on the purpose of the strange web. , Although simply find some information to meet The most established online. One Is That, indeed, is Randy Prozac a false name, and That really is the grandson of Donald Ewen Cameron, a psychiatrist of the twentieth century, famous for His participation in Project MKULTRA Central Intelligence Agency of the United States. UU.



Extracted image of SentimentalCorp

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Posted on December 21, 2011 by nzumel

Winter solstice arrives here in San Francisco tonight at 9:30 pm, local time (you can find what time it will be/was for you, here). In honor of the event, I've tried to find a folktale about the solstice from my collection that I could share with you. I couldn't come up with an actual folktale — I'm sure I'm just not looking hard enough — but I did find M. R. James's "An Evening's Entertainment," originally collected in *A Warning to the Curious* (1925).

'When the sun's gathering his strength,' he said, 'and when he's in the height of it, and when he's beginning to lose his hold, and when he's in his weakness, them that haunts about that lane had best to take heed to themselves.'

The quote refers, of course, to the equinoxes and the solstices. The story tells of two men who spend mysterious nights out near an "old figure cut out in the hill-side" — and come to a very bad end.

The old figure on the hill-side may have been inspired by the Cerne Abbas Giant, in Dorset, England. Dr. James had been working on a book about abbeys about the time he wrote "Evening's Entertainment", and Cerne Abbey was one of the places that he discussed. The horror symbology in the story refers mostly to Beelzebub ("Lord of the Flies"); but the descriptions of Mr. Davis and his companion suggest that they were involved in some derivation (or maybe perversion is a better word) of Celtic sun-god worship.

It's really more of a sketch than a full-on story, but it does illustrate nicely how Dr. James could weave his scholarly background and folkloric interests into his ghost stories. Also, he seems to have a nice appreciation for traditional oral storytelling.

Here is the full text of "An Evening's Entertainment." The text got a bit scrambled in places, but the story is readable.

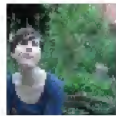
Here are some notes and annotations for the story, courtesy of Rosemary Pardoe at *Ghosts & Scholars*.

And finally, more commentary on the story, also courtesy of *Ghosts & Scholars*. Search the page for "The Old Man on the Hill", and "Just How Wicked was that Wicked Young Man?". Half the fun of reading M. R. James is to find all the writers who analyze his stories for their folkloric and historical context. It's better than detective fiction.

This entry was posted in Folktale and tagged Beelzebub, celtic folklore, Cerne Abbas Giant, folklore, History, M. R. James, winter solstice. Bookmark the permalink.

3 thoughts on "When the Sun is in his Weakness"

1. schietree says:
on December 21, 2011 at 3:53 pm



I love the composition of the photo, with that plane flying off above the sun.

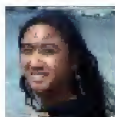
The solstice will be at 5am or so tomorrow morning here in the UK – I had totally forgotten, but somehow ended up at some standing stones... I love these sorts of coincidences. I'm wondering if you like M.R. James, whether you've ever read any of Alan Garner, who wrote a lot of the myths of his local area (where his family have lived for at least the past 500 years) into his fiction. Here's a lovely article on him if you are interested. <http://www.guardian.co.uk/books/2008/jun/13/alan.garner>



• nzumel says:
on December 21, 2011 at 3:58 pm

Yes, I saw your stones! That actually was what got me thinking of finding a solstice story for today's post.

I have not read Alan Garner, but I will look him up. Thank you!



• nzumel says:
on December 21, 2011 at 7:12 pm

Neil Gaiman just reviewed Gardner's *Collected Folktales* last week!

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/books/2011/dec/14/collected-folk-tales-garner-review>

Serendipity, indeed.



The Theban alphabet is of unknown origin . It was first published in Polygraphia of Johannes Trithemius in 1518, being attributed to Honorius of Thebes. This alphabet also happened to be called Alphabet of Witches, and usually is used to replace the Latin letters by writing in the Book of Shadows , serving, thus, as a magical writing , difficult to understand for those who do not know the Wicca, kind of pagan magic .

The correspondences with Latin Archaic

and lack of punctuation, suggest that this alphabet was inspired by Latin and in Hebrew, has no correspondence with the runic languages.

Johannes Trithemius - was an abbot responsible for the library of his convent, and a great scholar of his time. He was expelled from the abbey because of his great interest in the occult and science, Johannes was Master of Cornelius Agrippa and Paracelsus (1493-1541).

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Woman bursts into flames in German park

The Local · 3 Nov 2015, 15:13

Published: 03 Nov 2015 15:13
GMT+01:00

Mystery and tragedy went hand-in-hand in Flensburg, northern Germany on Monday evening, when passersby noticed a woman sitting on a bench suddenly burst into flames.

Shortly before seven o'clock pedestrians looked on in horror as

flames leapt up from a woman who was sitting on a park bench at a playground, reports the Flensburger Tagesblatt.

Eye witnesses say that the woman didn't make a sound as the flames engulfed her.

Another reported to police that she saw two men in the vicinity shortly before the incident. They then made a quick getaway, the witness said.

The woman's life was saved when a quick-witted man took off his jacket and used it to beat down the flames.

Police and ambulance crews quickly arrived on the scene, and the woman, who originally comes from Mauritius and is in her mid-forties, was taken to the local hospital before being transferred to a specialist burns unit in Lübeck, but she is still in a critical condition.

State prosecutors are keeping an open mind during investigations, although they currently believe the fire could have been a suicide attempt.

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Untouched Relics from a Baffling WWII Battle on a Barren Island

Andrea Majanik Bowen
Nov. 20 2015 5:47 PM

slate.com

By Ella Morton



Photo: Brendan Coyle

Atlas Obscura on Slate is a blog about the world's hidden wonders. Like us on Facebook, Tumblr, or follow us on Twitter @atlasobscura.

Kiska Island, in the Aleutians far west of Alaska, is not a hospitable place. It's cold. It's topped with a volcano. It's 1,000 miles from medical assistance. No one lives there, and if you are bold enough to visit, you'll be greeted by a shipwreck in its harbor.

Kiska is also the site of a deadly World War II battle in which only one side fought. Here's the story.

In the early hours of June 7, 1942, 1,200 Japanese soldiers stormed the island. They didn't have a lot of overpowering to do: Just 10 Americans were living on the island, operating a weather station. After killing two of the Americans and sending the other eight to Japan as prisoners of war, the Japanese settled into Kiska and stayed for more than a year, carving out tunnels, building machine gun bunkers, and even planting gardens.

With no Americans left on the island, the U.S. Army was not concerned about civilian casualties. Within two weeks of Japanese occupation, the United States launched a series of bombing campaigns on Kiska. A few ships and submarines were destroyed, and Japan lost hundreds of soldiers, but the big attack on the island did not come until Aug. 15, 1943.

On that day, almost 35,000 Allied soldiers landed at Kiska ready to overpower the Japanese. As they stormed the beaches, braced for heavy casualties, they noticed something unexpected: No one was fighting back.

After learning that the United States had attacked the Japanese base on nearby Attu Island, Japan ordered its soldiers—which now numbered 5,400—off Kiska. All departed on July 28, 1943—more than two weeks before the Allied soldiers arrived.

Suspicious of the silent plains and abandoned artillery, Allied troops scoured the 107-square-mile island for more than a week. Kiska was beset by heavy fog, and the on-edge soldiers occasionally fired at one another accidentally. Booby traps left by the Japanese caused more casualties. About 100 Allied soldiers ended up dying, either at the hands of a comrade or in



The ruins of the Borneo Maru, a Japanese army transport ship damaged by U.S. bombing.

encounters with unexploded mines.

The island is still littered with items left by the Japanese as they fled in haste that day in 1943. But due to its remote location and harsh conditions, Kiska is not a popular stop on World War II relic tours. You're not supposed to set foot on the island unless you are conducting research, and for that you will need permission from the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

If the authorities determine that your research is valid, it's just a matter of flying to Anchorage, then getting one of the twice-a-week flights to the island of Adak, then hitching a ride to Kiska on a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service research vessel. You'll need to bring your own food, water, and anything else you require to while away a summer on a barren island among rare war relics.



fig_350

Photo: Brendan Coyle

Brendan Coyle, author of the upcoming book *Kiska: The Japanese Occupation of an Alaska Island*, recently spent a summer on Kiska as a field assistant to a biology professor. The pair was tasked with researching the effects of the Norway rat on the island's indigenous bird populations. (Rats were introduced to Kiska in the 18th century when fishing vessels landed there.)

Though not entirely unexcited by rats and their destructive effects on an island eco-system, Coyle's main aim was to document the mostly untouched relics left by the Japanese. (For that reason, Coyle notes that the biology professor he assisted wishes to remain anonymous. "The national science council partly funds this research," he said, "so he doesn't want to give them the impression he's out there looking for World War II items when he should be looking at birds.")

During his 51 days on Kiska, Coyle photographed rusting guns, crumbling tunnels, gas masks whose tubes coiled like sea snakes in murky puddles, abandoned pairs of split-toe tabi shoes, and bombed-out submarines half-submerged in grass. Between photography and research expeditions, he and the professor spent time in their beachside tent, cooking meals on a propane stove, updating their journals, and being frustrated by frequent storms. (*House M.D.*, screened on a laptop powered by a generator, was the entertainment of choice on bad weather days. There was no Internet.)

Some of Coyle's stunning photos are below. Many more images, and the story of his summer on Kiska, are found in *Kiska: The Japanese Occupation of an Alaska Island*, to be published in October.

Visit Atlas Obscura for more on Kiska Island.



fig_230

Photo: Brendan Coyle

Photo: Brendan Coyle

Photo: Brendan Coyle

Photo: Brendan Coyle

Photo: National Museum of the U.S. Air Force/Public Domain

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Split-toe jika-tabi footwear left by Japanese soldiers.



fig_295



fig_120



fig_487



Japanese ships burning in Kiska Harbor following a U.S. Army bombing in 1942 or 1943.

Yakuza boss found bludgeoned to death - CNN.com

By Tiffany Ap and Yoko Wakatsuki, CNN Updated 2:51 AM ET, Tue November 17, 2015
2015-11-17T07:51:45Z

cnn.com

(CNN)A yakuza boss of Japan's largest gang syndicate was found dead on Sunday night, bleeding from the head after being bludgeoned multiple times, Japanese media reported.

Tatsuyuki Hishida, the chairman of Aioh Kai, a member group of the Yamaguchi-gumi, was found with his hands and feet bound by plastic cable ties, Japanese newspaper Mainichi Shimbun reported Monday.

His wife and staff found him at the entrance area of his second home in Yokkaichi city of Mie prefecture, west Japan, according to his wife.

Police have not confirmed those details, Mainichi said, but are investigating the case as a murder.

In August, the Yamaguchi-gumi syndicate splintered into two main factions, stoking concerns that it could potentially create a gang war involving all 21 designated crime groups in the country.

The last split in the Yamaguchi-gumi occurred in 1984 and resulted in several years of violent warfare marked with assassinations, shootings and attempted bombings that terrified the Japanese public.

Read: Russia declares war on cheese, cracks down on "dairy mafia"

Tiffany Ap wrote from Hong Kong and Yoko Wakatsuki reported from Tokyo, Japan.

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